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# AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF PUNJAB RANGERS, 1959-2016

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## Rangers - Abbreviations and Expressions

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**Border**            The International de jure border with India.

**Border Pillar {BP}**. The white pillars of given dimension erected at regular distance on Border, the numbering of border pillars is different for Border and Working Boundary.

**Butti**            Pillars on working Boundary are known commonly as Butti.

**Border Post**   Those posts which are located within 1000 meters of border.

**Border Out Post**            Posts , part of main border post but located within 250 meters of border.

**BGR** .Border Ground Rules, signed 1961, they govern conduct of Pakistan-India along Border.

**Civil Armed Forces** . CAF, include Frontier Corps, Rangers , Coast Guards

**CR**            Chenab Rangers, a corps of Rangers.

**CFV**            Cease Fire Violation

**Corps** .            Individual component of civil armed force ,Frontier Corps,Rangers. Each Corps have three to four Wings {should not be confused with Army Corps which is commanded by lieutenant general and have two to three divisions}

**Commandant.**            The officer in command of a Corps

**Director General.** The senior most rank and officer commanding Pakistan Rangers, presently Major General, on deputation from army.

**DSR**            Deputy Superintendent Rangers, equivalent to police deputy superintendent

**DR** Desert Rangers, a corps of Rangers

**Gasht** Patrolling either on camel, horse ,or foot along the border.

**SIR** Senior Inspector Rangers, equivalent to army subedar major, he wars three stars

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**IR** Inspector Rangers, equivalence to police inspector, also stands for Indus rangers, a corps of Rangers.

**JCP** Joint Check Posts

**Kacha** The area astride a river, which has wild growth.

**Khurra** The observation of the tarcks along border, every morning or when required to locate the intrusion, movent by detecting the feet movement of human and animal.

**Khoji** One which is expert in Khurra.

**Nakka.** The checking and check points on roads, likely crossing points , by Rangers , mainly to counter smuggling. Nakka is temporary in nature, mostly at night.

**Nigran** yearly and half yearly magazine of Punjab Rangers

**PR** Punjab Rangers

**PRA** Punjab Rangers Academy

**PRWVI** Punjab Rangers Women Vocational Institute

**PNR** Panjand Rangers, a corps of Rangers.

**PREIST** Punjab Rangers Education Improvement

**RBS** Rangers Battle School

**RPS** Rangers Public School

**REPAID** Rangers Environment Protection and Improvement Drive

**RISE** Rangers Institute for Special Education

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**Radcliffe Line** The border between the Pakistan Punjab and Indian Punjab, as awarded by Sir Cyril Radcliffe on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1947. The line that divided Punjab province.

**Shuttar Sowar** Shuttar {camel} Sowar {rider} thus camel rider.

**Sector** Corps are also known as Sectors , in order to avoid confusion with Army Corps.

**Wazahat.** The entry made in the soldiers mess, by the individual after consuming a meal, basing on this , his monthly messing is calculated.

**Wings.** Subordinate units of Corps, these are equivalence to standard infantry battalion but with more manpower. They are commanded by Wing Commanders who is a lieutenant colonel or major, on deputation from army. {Should not be confused with Wing Commander , a rank in air force equivalence to lieutenant colonel}

**Working Boundary .** The disputed border with india in north and in kashmir, both sides have not accepted the border, thus a Working Boundary agreed upon.

## Punjab

The word Punjab is Persian in origin, meaning ‘Land of Five Rivers’, which includes from the west-east, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers, all these rivers flow in a north-south direction, originating from the Himalayas. There is another historical connotation in which the area was known as ‘Land of Seven Rivers’ thereby including the great River Indus on the west and the Sarswati river on the east, latter is now only in fables however a waterline is traceable over the desert . Origin of human history is debateable , however what is taken as a law is the

fact that, civilisations took birth and prospered on the river banks<sup>1</sup>. River Nile, Euphrates, Tigris and Yellow all are the empirical evidences; Nile became preserved in the Old Testament however it was in 1920s that great archaeological discoveries were made which included the pyramids and the ruins of Mohen- jo- Dharo and Harappa in Indus Valley; whose upper half is what is known as the Punjab and south as Sindh, corresponding respectively to Harappa and Mohen- jo- Dharo. Somewhere around 3000 BC the Aryans migrated from the high mountains of the Himalayas and Hindu-Kush with the flow of rivers, they established the Harappa civilisation in the plains of Punjab, later these Harrapians further moved south and became engaged in a violent conflict with the lower riparian Mohen jo Dharo. The dark skinned Dravidians were drove further east into the is presently known as South India. Page | 4

The Vedic of Aryans, conveys a society which is warrior, liberal, close knit, racist and generous in nature. It was socially looked down if a person seeking help or food is turned away. Horse was the Aryans best companion, marriage was a social ritual and Aryan were scared of their mother in laws especially after losing in gambling. On religious side nothing great is understood about these civilization as not many artefacts have been discovered apart from the statue of a dancing girl from Mohenjo-Daro and a dancing boy in Harappa; ‘4500 years ago human development reached a striking peak in the Indus Valley cities of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro’<sup>2</sup>. Another civilisation, existed on the west of Indus also known as Mihi or Mehergarh, they existed astride, on the same track which is still used by the caravans the famous Bolan Pass, on the other hand another signs of civilization are to be found in the Kot Diji area which has been called as the Chando Darro<sup>3</sup>.

By 500 BC the Indus valley was fully civilized with two main centres’ of trade and civilization one was Tashkila {present day Taxila} and other was on the Ganges known as Magdella. Persian Kings Cyaxares {625-593 BC} and his decedents Cyrus {550-530BC} were able to conquer the Greek cities of Asia Minor and later to extend their rule in the east to the inclusion of the Indus river and to its upper mouth at Taxila which the Persians called Gandhara and Sindhu<sup>4</sup> respectively . Historia of Herodotus<sup>5</sup> is taken as the mother of history, Persians were ruling the world in , later they defeated the Greeks, present day Punjab was one of the twenty satrapies of Darrius of Persia, the richest among all

<sup>1</sup> Issac Cory *Ancient Fragments of the Phoenicians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Persians, Indians and other writers*, {Pickering, London, 1832} pp-31-34, also see Woodbridge, Hilary & Frank *A History of Asia Volume 1, Formation of Civilisations from Antiquity to 1600*. { Allyn, Boston, 1964 }, p-208.

<sup>2</sup> Cambridge Encyclopedia of South Asia , 1982, p-9. Also see K.C.Sagar *Foreign influence on Ancient India*, {Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 1992}, p-121-122. Richard Frye *History of Ancient Iran Volume 3 Part 7*, {Ballantine, Colchester, 1984} p-178.

<sup>3</sup> John Keay *India a History*, , {Grover Press, New York, 2000}, p-32.

<sup>4</sup> Jacob Abbott *Cyrus the Great*, , {Harper & Brothers, New York, 1903}, p- 141. also see Matthew Arnold & Marrie Snell *Shohrab & Rustam an episode* , {Warner , Chicago, 1896}, p-82.

<sup>5</sup> Herodotus was a Greek , he wrote the book Historia, although Herodotus personally never visited the Sind or Hind.

of them. Whereas the present day Kabul and other highlands were paying tribute in silver, the Tashkila was paying in gold, which speaks of the prosperity.

Social life of Punjab seems to be highly civilized, there were class system in India, with Brahmin being held in high esteem and having the liberty to take anything from the market without any payment, the mode of transport for the nobility was horse and not one but four horses were used, as riding on one horse was quite undistinguished in nature, camels were also used for transport, elephants were the mode of transport for the king and the rajas, footwear was made of white leather with heavy soles to increase the height of the person, white dress made of cotton and wrapped around the lower and upper part with a head gear was the standard dress code, people tend to spend the hot summer day under the shade of trees with span so wide that ten people could sit under it. Women and all the other population exhibited high virtues, however it was not taken very seriously if a woman sleeps with another person, women themselves take it as a matter of pride that their beauty is considered worth an elephant. Marriages are not arranged rather the father will offer their girls to men for marriage only after they have won wrestling or similar competition. Indians have been depicted as healthy mainly due to their simple diet and abstention from wine, the doctors specialized in every part of the body and disease, the nuisance and hazard of snakes and scorpions was manifold as they were found under every stone and caused painful bleeding from pores and ultimately death, yet the local doctors with the help of the herbs were able to cure that, another method of relieving the pain was through singing which was performed by natives all over India. Brahmins took part in the public life and acted as advisors to the king and all of them lead austere life, men used to dye their beard in various colours like red, green, white and purple; men also wear jewellery especially earring made of ivory. In the Sanskrit, the River Indus is known as Sindhu, however the Persian language does not have equivalent of H, thus they started calling it Hind or Hindustan and its people as the Hindus<sup>6</sup>.

### Alexander the Great and Punjab

Almost all historical inquiries regarding Pakistan & India starts with Alexander the Great for the reason that Indians were poor in recording their history<sup>7</sup>. Indus Valley {Pakistan} was the same arena which Alexander the Great attempted to conquer in 326 BC, the very first recorded military campaign of India. Alexander had the ambition of overthrowing the Persian yolk and hold, and succeeded in his aims, he marched through the present day Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, then turning back and advancing through the Iran, he defeated Firuz, who fled from battlefield and Alexander in his pursuit reached Oxus. Later Greeks marched through the Hindukush and entered in to present day Pakistan {Swat, Peshawar, Chitral}, at every place they were given stiff resistance by the natives. Later Alexander crossed Indus with the help of

<sup>6</sup> Herodotus *The Historia*, translated by George Rawlinson, ed Manuel Komroff, {Tudor, New York, 1928}, p-182. Arya Desh was the name of India, Northern Tribes call it India or Hindu as noted by Hsin-Tu in 7<sup>th</sup> AD, Chinese called India as Shin-Tu see James Legge, *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms The Chinese Monk Fa-Hien of His Travels in India & Ceylon AD 399-414*, {Oxford, 1886}, p-26. also see Jhon Keay History of India {Grover, New York, 2000}, p-57, word for river in Sanskrit is Sindhu.

<sup>7</sup> Jawaharlal Nehru *The Discovery of India* {John Day, New York, 1945}, p-92

Tashkila ruler , and advanced eastward till he reached Jhelum. Present day Punjab, at that time did not had any centralised government , rather on each river , there was a state . Porus was the ruler of the area between the Jhelum{Hydaspes} and Chenab

The Battle of Porus is a cultural heritage of Punjab, as the historians have nothing but praised for the character of Porus ‘ a man of character he was different from the Persian Darius who fled from the battlefield.. Porus’s two sons died in the battle field....he looked majestic after the defeat in his over seven feet tall frame ‘<sup>8</sup>. Alexander and Porus became friends to an extent that Alexander took campaigns to suppress the neighbouring tribes {the tribes across Porus boundaries were called Gleuganicae} on behalf of the Porus, all in all Alexander capture 37 towns after his battle with Porus and the smallest town had the population of 5000 inhabitants<sup>9</sup>. Alexander established a city in the name of his horse Bucephala who died here, the present day Mandi Bahauddin the training centre of Punjab Rangers is believed to be that city.. Alexander then move forward towards east in the pursuit of another Porus who unlike his name sake remained a thorn in Alexander’s crown . Greeks crossed the River Acesines {Chenab} close to the foothills of Himalayas<sup>10</sup>, Alexander then crossed Ravi{Hydraotes} and camped in the present day Lahore District area & Amritsar District{part of India but it was supposed to be part of Pakistan on transfer of power in 1947} ‘two days march from Ravi , Alexander reached the town of Pimpraena’<sup>11</sup>at the banks of River Beas{Hyphasis} where he was engaged in fierce battles with the hill tribes of Sanga and Catahaei who took cover in their hill forts for over three days ,Greek historians have named few of these tribes but there seems to be little doubt that they are the tribes of present day Jammu and adjoining territories inhabitants{most likely Aryan tribes of Sialkot, the city was the seat of power during Saka’s rule in India}}. 17000 Indians were killed here as compared to 12000 at River Jhelum. Alexander’s forces finally revolted at Hyphasis and he had to retreat , Alexander opted to march down through the flotilla , which was made in Jhelum. the number of the boats which Alexander had for his downward journey were over 2000 with 200 elephants,83 oared galley’s and 1,20,000 troops. Alexander in his farewell gift to his friend Porus made him the king of the India with over seven nations and having over 2400 towns under his control.

In this epic journey which took almost ten months, Alexander was offered stiff resistance all along the river banks at Multan , he was wounded when he tried to capture the citadel of Multan whose inhabitants were known as Mallians, all in all over 80,000 natives suffered only in this retreat of Alexander. Greeks were not given any respite in lower Indus Valley, they were attacked at Thatta {Pattalla}and also in present day Baluchistan as well, in the end Alexander is considered lucky to escape with his force back to Persia where he later died. On the conduct of the

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<sup>8</sup> Arrian *The Campaigns of Alexander* translated by Aubrey de Selincourt { Penguin,1971},p-280. Arrian is universally regarded as the most authentic, Starbo, Pliny, Ailianos, Athenaios, Orosius and Arrian all wrote the history of Alexander the Great. There were over two dosen historians who came with Alexander, however none of their accounts survived, Arrian wrote the history almost three hundred years later while sitting in Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> Ibids,p-283.

<sup>10</sup> Ptolemy son of Lagus wrote it and quoted by Arrian,p-284.

<sup>11</sup> Arrian,p-286.

Punjab, a Greek historian wrote 'Men are taller than any other Asiatic most of them being over seven feet or not much less...the finest fighters to be found anywhere in Asia at that time'.<sup>12</sup>

Alexander the Great and his campaign thus are the empirical evidence of the very earliest history of Punjab. It highlights the martial character of the Indus valley in general and about the Punjabis in particular. For another couple of centuries, Greek governors remained in Punjab, on the east of Punjab, the Ganges civilisation emerged as potent for the first time when Ashoka expanded his empire west ward, however soon Ashoka adopted the teachings of the Buddha and became non violent in nature, prohibiting all kind of violence in his empire.

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### Punjab after Greeks

With the passage of time further Aryan tribes came down into Punjab, they were known as the Sakans, Parithans, Pahlavas and Khushans, however it were the White Huns also known as Hephthalites who under Torramana in 460 AD established their capital at Sialkot which became the hub of commerce and trade; they were finally defeated in 560 AD . For next five hundred years , the history is almost non-existent and as such is known as the dark period of India. There are glimpse of history through the travelogue of Chinese travellers. The turning point in the history of Punjab came with the advent of Islam{571 AD} and the invasion of Arabs{630-712D} , through the south, marching upstream along the River Indus, after defeating the Sindh's rajas , it halted at Multan.

Arab Muslims invasion also took towards the Oxus Valley as well where they defeated the Turks and Chinese forces, Arabs called all the nomadic tribes including the Aryans , collectively as Turk. Later these Turk after embracing Islam established the very first Islamic empire in the Ghazna. Present day Afghanistan. For next almost seven hundred years not only Punjab but the entire present day Pakistan , India and Bangladesh remained a tributary to the Central Asians Turks including Mongols, Tartars and Mughuls. At the turn of second millennium, Mahmood of Ghazna initiated his first of seventeen raids towards the south India specifically targeting the Somnath temple which was the symbol of Hinduism. It must be kept in mind that Hinduism is not a specific religion, rather it is amalgamation of over seven hundred varying rituals and rites followers , which included the Somnath where the phallus was the worshipping god, washed every day by with milk by no less than three hundred temple women known as 'dasi'. After Mahmood's death the Ghazna empire also took its last breath and was over taken by the neighbouring Ghor . Mahmood's descendent took refuge at Lahore and thus the old historical capital of the Punjab shifted from Sialkot to

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<sup>12</sup> Arrian p-261.



Lahore. Shahab Uddin Ghorī {1149-1206} had annexed Punjab and appointed governors for India, Ghorī himself was assassinated in 1206 , when he was going back to Kabul after a successful campaign against the rebels in present day Jhelum District.

From 1206-1526 A.D. India or more specifically all the three riparian civilizations { Indus – Ganges – Brahmaputra} were under the control of Muslims who were chiefly Turks, Afghans and Pathans, this rule of the Slave Kings is known as Delhi Sultanate<sup>13</sup> followed by Mughuls {1530-1857 }. Punjab remained the Scarlet Thread, as it offered the shortest and most viable lines of communication and trade between the Highlands of Hindu Kush and the Gangetic Valley which had become the capital seat. Page | 8

Mughuls, the dynasty raised by the Babur of Fergana , when he defeated the Ibrahim Lodhi in 1530 AD and lasted till 1857 when the last heir was sent on an exile by the British East India Company . It was one of the Mughul emperor Jahangir who had incidentally gave the royal assent to the company itself in 1600 AD to establish trading places on the eastern coast of the empire, Bengal. The Mughul emperors from Babur , Humayun, Akbar the great, Jahangir, Shah Jehan, Aurangzeb ; the last of great emperors, the empire itself started decaying from this point . Mughuls were fond of grandeur, pomp, protocols, they were warrior, philosophers as almost all wrote their autobiographies Tuzk, liberal in religious approach . Punjab reached its high point under the Mughuls, Lahore became their defacto capital , Badshahi Mosque the largest mosque of its time was built in Lahore so were the forts at Lahore and Attock. From 1710 onwards the Mughul empire became so impotent that it had to rely upon the Afghans and Persians to stave off the Hindu Mahratta's threat. Nadir Shah in 1730 and later Ahmad Shah Abdalli in 1761 , crushed the Hindus , however in return the Punjab became a part of the Kabul empire. Governors at Lahore, Multan, Kashmir, and Attock were all nominated by Kabul.

It was Mughul emperor Akbar who classified Punjab in terms of 'doab' the strip of country between two rivers, thus area between the Beas and Sutlej as Bist Jullundar or Sararwal Doab. Area between old bed of Beas and Ravi as Bari Doab. The wedge of country between Ravi and Chenab was known as Rachna Doab, similarly area between Chenab and Jhelum was termed as Chinbath or Jech Doab, as River Jhelum was also known as Bihat and finally area between Jhelum and Sind as 'Sind Sagar'.<sup>14</sup>

Sikhs, British & Punjab

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<sup>13</sup> The rulers who ruled India before the Moghuls have been termed as Delhi Sultans and the empire is termed as Delhi Sultanate. Mamluks 1206-1290 A.D. Khiljis 1290 – 1320 A.D. Tughluqs 1320 – 1414 A.D. The Sayyids 1414 -1451 A.D. and Lodhis 1451 – 1526 A.D.

<sup>14</sup> Imperial Gazetteer of India, 1904.pp10-30.

The British East India Company {BEIC} expanded westward from Calcutta , by virtue of better military discipline, they at the end of 1760s became a power to be reckoned; yet they had not entered into the politics of Punjab and Indus Valley.

Sikhism took birth in Punjab in sixteenth century, it initially prospered and later persecuted under the Mughuls on various reasons , mostly political in nature In retaliation the Sikh uprising took birth in Punjab and when Abdalli was marching back to Kabul in 1762-3, his forces were continually harassed, ambushed and raided by Sikh Misls between the river Beas – Jhelum. It was in 1799 that young Ranjeet Singh<sup>15</sup> who hails from Gujranwala {Punjab} entered into Lahore Fort with his misl and within a decade he was ruling half of Punjab. Multan was captured in 1818, so was Attock and Kashmir in 1819 and by 1835 , he had the Peshawar , in 1836 came Bannu , Kohat and Dera Jats under his control. Jamrud was the extreme limit of Sikh influence where they were defeated in 1837.

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#### Punjab and the Great Game. 1800-1849

Ranjeet Singh entered into a pact with the BEIC in 1807, whereby the eastward expansion of Sikhs was restricted to east of River Sutlej and similarly British also undertook not to cross over into Ranjeet Singh's area of sphere; the Punjab. Later events , of which initially the fear of Napoleon's invasion , later replaced by the Russian fear compelled BEIC to have a ruler of their choice in Kabul , this led to First Afghan War 1839-1842. Ranjeet Singh did not allow BEIC to march through Punjab towards the Kabul, thus the southern route was adopted by the BEIC which started from Ferozpur-Multan-Sukkur-Bolan Pass onward to Quetta- Ghazna and Kabul . The campaign ended in a disaster for the British as none but only one survived among the sixteen thousand retreating army, Ranjeet Singh had died in 1840 and his successors were having a second thought on the friendly relations with British. In the aftermath, Sind was annexed by the BEIC, in Punjab however the Sikhs attacked British and this led to two Anglo Sikh wars between 1842-1849, both fierce, bloody and in the end Punjab was annexed by the British East India Company in 1849. First Anglo – Sikh War { 1845 – 1846 } resulted in cession of certain areas of Punjab to the British including Kashmir, the resultant Second Anglo - Sikh war {1848 – 1849} resulted in annexation of Punjab by the BEIC, with Sir Henry Lawrence {1806 – 1857} and his 'Young Men'<sup>16</sup> now trying to govern the Punjab especially the North Western Frontier. Punjab was divided into nine administrative

<sup>15</sup> Khullar, *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*. {Hem, New Delhi, 1980}. pp-48-52, pp 121-129 also see Cuningham Joseph Davey {1812-1851} *History of the Sikhs*, {London, Oxford, 1918}.

<sup>16</sup> Henry's brother John Lawrence was among those Young Men, he later became the Viceroy of India {1864 – 1869}. Young Men included Captain James Abbott { Abbottabad} John Coke { Coke's Infantry} Lieutenant Harry Lumsden { Corps of Guides } Captain Neville Chamberlain { Later Field Marshall}.

divisions each headed by a commissioner having two or three districts under him { total of thirty three districts } with a deputy commissioner in charge.

Punjab Irregular Frontier Force was raised in 1849, by incorporating the existing Khalsa battalions and raising new battalions having with local Muslims; it had seven infantry and five cavalry regiments and was responsible for maintaining order on the Punjab frontiers with Afghanistan. Piffers remained under command of Punjab Government and only in 1885 it was placed under Central Government at Calcutta<sup>17</sup>.

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Modern history of Punjab thus starts from 1858, when it was raised to the status of province. British brought the modern concept of bureaucracy and statehood, roads, bridges, railway, irrigation canals and headworks, schools, colleges and hospitals were built. New town like Sargodha, Montgomery {Sahiwal}, Lyallpur {Faisalabad}, Warburton etc were created. Along with these, the institutions like judiciary, police, revenue were made efficient on modern lines. Political freedom was given slowly and gradually, Lahore became the capital seat of Punjab which extended from the present day International border with Afghanistan {Durand line 1893} in the west, to the present day Sindh in south, in the north was the Kashmir and on the east area uptill Delhi was part of Punjab; River Jumna formed its eastern borders with United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

In 1862, Penal code was introduced in Punjab and a chief court was established in 1865, in a major administrative shuffling in 1884, the number of commissioners were reduced to six from ten. In 1903 the present day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province was separated from Punjab and made a commissioner province. Punjab had been responsible for Kashmir as well, till 1877 when its affairs were handed over to the central government at Calcutta. In 1911, the capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi and resultantly, Punjab thus had to cede the Delhi territory to centre. In 1914, Punjab consisted of 28 districts grouped in five divisions namely, Ambala Division {Hisar, Rohtak, Karnal and Ambala districts}, Jullundur Division {Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepur, Jullundur and Ludhiana districts}, Lahore Division {Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Lahore, Sialkot and Gujranwala districts}, Rawalpindi Division {Gujrat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mianwali and Shahpur districts} and Multan Division {Montgomery, Muzaffargarh, Lyallpur, Jhang, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan districts}. India had over 640 native princely states, only a handful of them were in Punjab, Phulkian State {Patiala, Jind and Nabha} other Sikh states were Kapurthala, Faridkot and Kalsia,

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Political Agents John Nicholson { Nicholson Memorial near Islamabad } Lieutenant Herbert Edwardes { 1819 – 1868 } founder of Edwardesabad { Modern Bannu } Lieutenant William Hodson { 1821 – 1858 } of 'Hodson Horse' & 'Guides Cavalry' Captain John Coke { 1806 – 1897 } of '1<sup>st</sup> Punjab Regiment'.

<sup>17</sup> Timothy Robert Moreman "Passing It On The Army In India & The Development Of Frontier Warfare 1849-1947", Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, King's College, University of London. pp 20-25

Muslims states were Bahawalpur, Pataudi, Dujana, Loharu and Maler Kotla ; Hindu states were mainly hilly namely ,Mandi, Suket, Sirmur,Chamba, Bilaspur and Bashar.<sup>18</sup>

Punjab had an area of 133,741 square miles; a tenth of whole Indian Empire, states occupied only 36,532 square miles. In terms of population , Punjab had the 8.1 % of the Indian Empire. One major impact of British rule was the introduction, expansion and acceptance of Christianity as a religion, missionary schools and churches were constructed in almost every major town and city of Punjab. On the other hand, Punjab became the backbone of the British army, as the majority of enrolment was carried out in Punjab having Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus{Rajputs} in the army, Punjab was also the granary of the subcontinent . Punjab politically aroused in post First World War era, the massacre at Jallianwala {Amritsar} in which over 300 protesting Sikhs were shot dead by the British {General Dyer} remains a black stigma on the face of British Raj.

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#### Punjab Bastion of Pakistan Movement

The very first resolution demanding a separate homeland for Muslims was presented in Lahore in 1940, soon this resolution became the main force around which the politics of Punjab and India were governed. Punjab again was in forefront during the Second World War in terms of manpower inducted in military. Politically Punjab had a coalition government , with Muslim landlords as the premier{ Sir Khizar Tiwana}, having strong representation of Sikhs as well.

Under the partition plan of June 1947, it was agreed by all the political parties {Muslim League and Congress} to divide the India into Pakistan and Hindustan, thus Punjab along with Bengal had to be divided on communal basis. For the demarcation of the area {Punjab and Bengal} a boundary commission was set up under Sir Cyril Radcliffe a prominent lawyer, his mandate was ‘to demarcate the boundaries on the general principles of Muslim and non-Muslim population and keeping other factors’.<sup>19</sup>Radcliffe Award was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1947 a Muslim majority district Gurdaspur{Lahore Division} having four Tehsils namely Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Batala and Shakargarh; only Shakargarh was awarded to Pakistan , rest to India. This unfair division further fuelled the already explosive communal atmosphere, trains of

<sup>18</sup> Imperial Gazetter of India, 1914. Official publication.

<sup>19</sup><http://www.legislation.gov.uk> Indian Independence Act 1947 {accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010} also see Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema *The Politics of the Punjab Boundary Award working Paper No 1*, September 2000, {University of Heidelberg}

Muslim refugees were burnt, looted, raped, killed and abducted in Sikh states adjoining the Pakistan in East Punjab especially the Patiala<sup>20</sup>. Among the states only Bahawalpur acceded to Pakistan.

## Punjab; Culture & Geography

Culture is the way the people live their everyday life, culture is a heritage and it takes time to bring any substantial change in it, culture is a reflection of geography and history; Punjab thus is the heart of Indian Subcontinent. Its culture is an amalgamation of Aryans, Greek, Turk, Pathan, British and Sikh way of life, however none has left its impact more, than the Sufi saints. Religiously, Punjab is the meeting point of two distinct interpretation of Islam; the Arabs and the Central Asian school of thought; which leans more towards Sufism, therefore in Punjab, the saints are held in high esteem. Punjab and Persia are intertwined in history, Persian was the nobility's language in Punjab, Doctor Sir Alama Iqbal, the national poet of Pakistan was a philosopher and poet, whose major works are in Persian. Islamic caliphate and subsequent clash between the Arabs and Persian Muslims also have its impact on Punjab, this is where these Sufi saints have played a key role in keeping factions of Punjabi society together. Mian Mir, a Muslim saint at Lahore laid the foundation stone of Golden temple the sacred place for Sikhs at Amritsar in 15....

Scarlet Thread of Punjab's culture is Aryan way of life; martial, happy, liberal, hospitable, social, a way of life in which caste and creed plays a fundamental role. Punjab geographically is divided into three main categories, the green, semi mountainous and desert and as such its culture is also tri dimension reflecting the geography.

Village is the basic strand of Punjab's culture. Villages are of two kinds, one the old dating back to Mughul era, they have now evolved into towns; other which takes their origins from the extensive canal work, the largest in world during British Raj. Within a village, farming and agriculture is the main profession and as such farmers are held in high esteem and they form the bulk of the population, along with farmers who are called as Jats, the men who are serving in military are held in high esteem. Incidentally it were the Jats who were enrolled in the military as well. In a village, apart from the extensive jat clan which seldom have unity among them and are mostly engaged in one or other kind of libel cases. The other castes which are mostly supporting in nature like the Tarkhan{carpenter} Jhulaha {weaver} Mochi{cobbler} Lohar {iron

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<sup>20</sup>Discussions of the Kashmir Dispute in The Security Council *Security Council Official Records Third Year 6th January 1948-29<sup>th</sup> December 1949* {Lake Success, New York} p.43.

smith}Darzi{tailor} Nai{barber} Qasai{butcher}, Marasi{ musician} and Chura { menial} etc etc. Similar to old Aryan way of life, the religious men are held in high esteem in the village, before partition it was common for the Muslim, and Sikhs alongwith Hindus living together in the village in a harmony, Hindus very non farmers and engaged in business activities they were known as Banya {shopkeeper}. Marriages are conducted in the caste and it does raise eye brows if it is contracted outside the caste; castes are thus professions therefore a farmer prefers a farmer. This pattern underwent a major transition in seventies when the youth of Punjab started going abroad mostly illegally to Gulf and Europe, these mostly belongs to non-farming castes; This inflow of wealth has shifted the cultural values. Punjab was and still is the most prosperous of all provinces, its prosperity lies in the fresh water, soil and manpower, it produces more crops than the combined output of other three provinces of federation.

Punjabi is the language, it is spoken in similar manner by both Pakistani Punjabis and Sikhs , however it written in different manners by both. The dialect is different in various divisions of Punjab , in south it is known as Seraiki and on west it is Pothohari. Punjabi language however is not the official language of the province and neither children are taught in schools but it is spoken in homes. Punjabi women are part of society, they are hand in hand with men in the fields, and they are tough in nature. Purdah in strict sense is almost unobservable in the farmer life , however conventions are observed in which women are held in very high esteem , it is a common saying that ‘grandmothers of jats are common’. Education is wide spread, Lahore was the education capital of the Indian empire as university, medical college, girls college were all established in Punjab, all Punjabi communities played key role in the service of humanity. Sir Ganga Ram and Dhayal Singh Majeethia will always be remembered for this.

Punjabi life is colourful, music is part of it and so is dance known as Bhangra and Luddi. Dress is loose Kurta and Dhoti, the dhoti was worn in different patters by the Muslims and others, turban or the Pag is the headgear and Khussa the footwear. Women do not wear turban otherwise their dress is same but colourful. Men wear jewellery in the form of ring but women are always elaborately ornamented with gold. Marriages are an expensive affair and often ends up in credit for both parties.

## Home Guard-Border Police- Rangers

1947-1964

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History greatest and most gruesome migration took place as a result of the partition of Punjab, the demographic layout of Punjab was such that Muslims in the districts east of Lahore, where they were in minority were still a considerable number; on the other hand the non muslims {Sikhs and Hindus } were a small number in districts west of Lahore. All hell let loose on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1947 when the Redcliff award was announced. Muslims trains bound for Lahore were attacked, looted and set on fire ; same was the fate of Muslims who were on foot. Punjab Boundary Force was established a month ago under Major General Peter Rees but it failed in the event of such daunting task; it seems as none had even thought that such level of barbarity will be shown. By the end of first fortnight of freedom, both Pakistan and India fully understood the catastrophic situation in Punjab and hence a Joint Military Evacuation Organisation was set up in Lahore

Lahore was wounded, it was bleeding, million Muslims have arrived in the city and city rose to the occasion, people set up camps for the incoming brethren, it was in this atmosphere that a **Home Guard** was established mainly to facilitate the refugees<sup>21</sup> in new home, to escort them from the border, to establish law and order in the camps, to assist the police and army In this hour of need. Home Guards were meant for Punjab and Sindh, its headquarters was established at depot No.6 Royal Artillery Bazar, Lahore. It initially composed of volunteers and the existing police forces, including Punjab Border Police, Sindh Rifles with elements of Sindh Border Police and Khairpur Military Police. Provincial border police force even before the partition were functional , in checking the movement and smuggling coming and going from the provinces to the native states.

There were 6,50,000 refugees which came to Pakistan excluding the Kashmiri refugees, of these 5,20,000 came from east Punjab and East Punjab States. Similary 4,400,000 refugees went to India

Home Guards, in Punjab were spread from Gujrat to Sulemanki, The Bahawalpur Border Police was manning the Bahawalpur's borders with India and similarly its adjoining state Khairpur with its own Khairpur Police was maintain order on its border , similarly the Sind Police

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<sup>21</sup> Six million refugees were in Punjab, see Richard Symonds *The Making of Pakistan*, first published in 1965, London, reprinted in 1987, Islamic Book Service, Lahore, p-77.

Rifles were looking after the Sindh province. The political and geographical layout is as such that mass movement took place across the green fields of Punjab whereas the border with India south of Punjab is barren and desert. Home Guards were placed under Inspector General of Police; it was not just an organisation it was a zealot movement, the very first Militia of Pakistan. All retired military and police personnel were given a national call to come forward, so were the tribesmen of Frontier.

Senior Superintendent of Punjab Police, E.W. Edwards who was serving in same capacity in district Dera Ghazi Khan was appointed as the First Commandant of Home Guards, Edward was a dedicated and professional officer, he divided the Home guards initially into five sectors, starting from Sialkot in north, Narowal, Lahore, Kasur and Dipalpur<sup>22</sup>. These sectors were commanded by assistant commandant appointed by Edwards, the sectors were further sub divided into circles which were commanded by inspectors or deputy superintendent. It goes to the credit of SSP Edwards that some of the posts which he sited in that time are still in use, as the transport was almost non-existent thus all the sitting of posts and reconnaissance was carried out on horseback.

Funds were scarce in newly born Pakistan, thus the Home Guards posts were established in the vacated houses of Sikhs and Hindus, posts were also created along the river banks and in the southern sector in Gopas. The men had their own charpoy, ration was scarce but the villagers came forward and fed the posts, food was simple, wheat, rice and lentils. These posts had the one very simple aim, to protect the villages from the marauding jathas of Sikhs who frequently attacked the border villages. Movement across the international border was not regulated, people freely moved across the villages and across the border as well. The Home Guard was structured on a combination of army and police way of life, it was in the form of platoons and natives were encouraged to join it, thus platoons were based upon districts. Home Guards was a national cause, women guards were also raised which were part of it, and these ladies would spend time in the refugee camps and helping the distressed families.

Home Guards had a uniform which was simple kameez shalwar of militia colour, already in vogue with the Frontier Corps, a chappal as foot wear, a belt and a beret. Some of the tribesmen had brought their own rifles as well, others were issued with surplus rifles from armoury, but by and large every member of Home Guard was not armed as it was not perceived as an armed force.

Home Guards<sup>23</sup> after a year, in winter 1948, as the refugees issue was over; 'by the end of 1948, refugee camps were empty, somehow the six million people have been accommodated by the economy of Pakistan'<sup>24</sup> were amalgamated into the **Punjab Border Police** with

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<sup>22</sup> Regimental histories of Sutlej Rangers, and Chenab Rangers.

<sup>23</sup> India also initiated similar Home Guard in Eastern Punjab <http://www.lawsfindia.org/statelaw/3333/ThePunjabHomeGuardsAct1947.html>



Superintendent Police Haq Nawaz as its first commandant; he was already serving in Home Guard as an adjutant. Major reason for the end of Home Guards was in the fact that situation astride border had normalised to some extent. Pakistan and India had both entered into the battlefield soon after the independence with Kashmir as the main cause. The matter was taken to the United Nations Organisation by the India and soon a cease fire was announced. Punjab at the end of 1948 had a population of 19,740,000 out of the total population of 80,260,000 {including 46,720,000 in East Pakistan}.<sup>25</sup>

Punjab already had a ‘**Punjab Border Military Police**’ which was raised in 1904<sup>26</sup> when Lord Curzon the Viceroy of India in his wide spread reforms carried across the frontier , aiming at reduction of army and handing over the same responsibilities to the native militia with own officers. This border military force was meant exclusively for the notified tribal areas of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur districts. The rules of service were strict for policemen serving in it, ‘death punishment’ was very much in them for serious and heinous crimes committed by its force. The force in nature and spirit was not different from the other Militias and Levies raised by Lord Curzon; which today is more popularly known as Frontier Corps. On raising of newly Punjab Border Police, this force was also incorporated into it, and its officers were also posted to the eastern border and so were the men. It would not be out of context to highlight that this parent police force acted as the mother board. The key difference between the past border police and the current raised was in the geography and different layout of the area. Border Police relied heavily on the goodwill of the locals and on having own intelligence operators known commonly as ‘Toddy’ or ‘Taut’.

Punjab Border Police headquarters remained in same depot where the Home Guards were raised. Its way of working, induction, training, employment and deployment was more on the police lines. It retained the same posts which were initially established by the Home Guards. Officers were transferred on deputation from the regular police department of Punjab Police. *‘ I was twenty years old had recently passed my FA examination and as such I joined Punjab Border Police as assistant sub inspector, there were two main entry grades, educated one were inducted directly as in my case and other were enrolled as sepoy, our uniform was the same as that of regular police, almost all officers were from police. Our initial training was in Lahore, it included morning physical training , we were taught about the laws and regulations of police as well, our main task was to look after the border with East Punjab, smuggling was the main concern as every now and then the food items will get short in the open market in Punjab, sometimes it was wheat at others the influx of Indian made cloth. The border crossing or movement across the border was not very strict, people on both sides of the border had their friends and in certain cases relatives also, thus it was common*

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid, p-85.

<sup>25</sup> *British Fair Industries Review* London, 1948.

<sup>26</sup> Punjab Border Military Police Act 1904.

*to see Sikhs coming and meeting with old friends. Animal grazing was our main headache, as every now and then the cow or buffalo would be either stolen or lost on border’.*<sup>27</sup>

DSP Mian Abbass was another energetic officer of the border police, he improved the posts all along stretching from Melu {Azad Kashmir} to Sulemanki the border post with Bahawalpur; posts were based upon having platoon strength {30 policemen}. The service itself was non pensionable, without any medical or other associated facilities, ration was not provided by the department rather a ration allowance was authorised. Communication depended upon the wireless which were at company headquarters . Main threat or task was to counter smuggling activities. It was an open border where the farmers remained busy in generation old rituals and profession, their lands and water channels were intrinsically linked with each other, buffaloes, cows and bulls grazed freely and reverting back to their ‘deeras’ in the evening.

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Punjab Border Police had one of the best hockey team in the country, they defeated the national hockey team in the very first match in 1952.

Punjab Border Police would always be remembered for initiating and organising the first ever Horse and Cattle at Lahore in 1950; it was held in the premises of the No.6 Depot. Inspectors namely Raja Mustaqeem, Syed Fazl Hussain Shah, Boota Khan and sub inspector Mirza Abdul Haq were the men behind the ‘Tattoo Show’ which later attained a national event . The show itself took birth accidentally, the recruits were being imparted training in horse riding in the depot and people would gather every evening to witness the horsemanship of the Punjab Border Police and hence it was organised , it was simple routine activity but presented in a manner to attract the public, it was more of an annual fair. In 1953 the show was organised by the Punjab Border Police in East Punjab , it was carried out on the request of Pakistan’s ambassador to India Mr Ghazzanfar Ali. The show attained national stature from 1958 onwards when it was organised at present day Fortress stadium in Lahore under arrangements of Lahore city administration, it remained discontinued between 1965-1974 due to the political reasons . In following quarter of century the show attained its zenith in terms of popularity, it was again discontinued due to terrorism 2003-2010; presently it is being held as a Mela Jashn-e-Baharan ‘ this mela started in 2012.

This organisation remained in vogue till 1955, when ‘**One Unit**’ was adopted in Pakistan under which all the provinces of West Pakistan along with the native states were amalgamated and formed as One Unit. To fully comprehend the border policing of West Pakistan, it is pertinent to highlight the other police forces.

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<sup>27</sup> Mr Shiraz an interview, July 2016 at Lahore.

**Bahawalpur State Police.** Bahawalpur State was having an area of 15,918 square miles, out of which 9,881 square miles is desert. The state is wedge between the Punjab on the north, west and south east, province of Sindh on south west, Ferozepur of East Punjab on its north east and independent native states of Bikaner and Jaisalmer on east and south east. Bahawalpur state was formed in 1748 by Bahawal Khan. Bahawalpur was known as Askalanda and Pabiya in ancient times<sup>28</sup>, the state transitioned through the passages of history with Jaisalmer and Multan both having claims over the territory. Bahawalpur entered into treaties with British East India Company in 1808, later under the British Raj, wide reforms were carried out thus the very first organised police department was established in 1867, a police taring school was opened in Bahawalpur in 1904, by that time Bahawalpur had 30 police stations and 15 police posts with an overall strength of 540 all ranks. Colonel Minchin the political agent, is man credited with setting up a modern police system in Bahawalpur. Police stations were established at Bahawalpur, Sadiqapur, Khairpur, Bahawalnagar, Ahmed Pur East, Uch, Allahabad, Khanpur, Shidani, and Kot Sabzal

Bahawalpur did not had any exclusive border police, although it had a good standing army., as the state had borders with the Punjab , Sindh and other native states, thus a regular monthly meeting of police officials of the state with officers of Multan ,Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan , to iron out the complexities of border crimes. Between 1904-1941, a considerable migration took place in which population from adjoining districts and states came into Bahawalpur, the state it self was having an economic boom due to the construction of Curzon Waterworks; under which water from River Sutlej was channelled into the state. This migration caused border incidents and it is in this point of history that attention was paid to the border activities. It must be kept in mind, that like all states, Bahawalpur also had an extensive intelligence system thus border activities were closely monitored.

After the partition, Bahawalpur retained its original entity, it also faced the refugees settlement issue, and as such it set up a Refugees Ministry as well<sup>29</sup>, a Bahawalpur Border Police was established in February 1948 and Mr Jamil Zaidi was its first commandant, he was serving in police at Hyderabad Deccan. The major border police stations were at Mojgarh and Derawar; at Mojgarh there were twenty policemen including an inspector , it was established in 1943 , in 1963 the police station was shifted to the Yazman .

**Khairpur State Police.** Khairpur was another state which had joined Pakistan, its area starts from Reti near Sadiqabad {Bahawalpur} to Kum in Sindh, state itself was officially recognised by the British raj in 1866, although historically it was in 1788 that Mir Fateh Ali Khan had obtained a sanad from Kandahar thereby according him the rule of Sindh; a cousin of him , Sohrab Khan established Khairpur State. State had an area of 6,050 square miles with a population which was 1,26,962 in 1871. The police in 1901 numbered 216 al ranks out of which only one third

<sup>28</sup> Punjab State Gazetteers Volume XXXVIA. *Bahawalpur State 1904*. Published under the authority of Punjab Government, Lahore, p-27.

<sup>29</sup> Makhdoom Syed Hassan Mehmood *Mera Siyasi Safar* {Lahore, Jang,1986},p-37. Mr Makhdoom was the first elected chief minister of Bahawalpur in 1951.

were armed with rifles and reaming with swords. State shared borders with Sukkur district on north east, on east were the states of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer on south and south west the districts of Thar and Parkar.

**Sindh Rifles** was a police force raised in 1941 mainly to counter the Hurs . Sindh Police was the very first police force to be raised in the present day Pakistan; it was raised in 1843 by Sir Charles Napier. The same very model was adopted by different provinces of British India. In August 1947, one of the very first directive of Quaid Azam was to have reforms in police department and specifically to have a separate police for Karachi; draft and bill was passed by the Sindh assembly but it was never signed by the governor general. The Sindh Rifles were renamed as **Sindh Border Police** in 1948. Reason was more political than any thing else, as the Sindh Rifles were raised mainly to crush the Hurs thus continuing the same name was not desirable furthermore the very cause of creation of Sindh Rifles was to protect the British interests , and now since they have gone therefore the force was terminated and rechristened . Sindh border Police was not created through an act of assembly rather it was an administrative separation from regular police, therefore Sindh border Police was under the command of inspector general of Sindh Police

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There is a stark difference between the eastern and western frontiers of West Pakistan at the inception, where as the western border known popularly as Durand Line {1893} which officially drew the statehood and political influence of British Raj and the Afghanistan and Russia , there by creating the Frontier Militias between 1900-1903 ; these Militias like Khyber Rifles, North and South Waziristan Militias, Kurram Militia, all developed as an institutions. Where as the western frontiers of newly born Pakistan remained the and continued from the past, the newly created Radcliffe Line and eastern frontiers were a new entity and as such new rules had to be agreed among the newly born dominions.

#### Eastern Frontier

The initial dispute between Pakistan and India over the interpretation of the past administrative boundaries in light of new realities took place in Sindh. The eastern frontiers of Pakistan comprises of two distinct geographical features , namely the green belt and the desert { Cholistan and Thar}, Punjab forms the green belt and naturally it is more densely populated, more economically prospered, rich in agriculture and resultantly more educated , British raj made it the power house of India. Sindh on the other hand had been administratively part of the Bombay Presidency and became a province in 1935; at that moment, its administrative borders were drawn, which on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 became the borders of Pakistan. Sindh emerged as the hub of international trade and commerce under the Raj , chiefly as the main seaport and the

aerodrome. Sindh is the lower part of Indus Valley which runs for five hundred odd miles almost the same length as that of upper riparian Punjab. Whereas Punjab is wide , Sindh is narrow rather slim. Sindh had and have a narrow stretch of land which makes its boundary with Punjab, at that time the state of Khair Pur and Bahawalpur formed the buffer between the Harappa and MohenjoDaharo cultures.

State of Bahawalpur and State of Khairpur both formed the middle segment of eastern frontier, they had their borders agreed with the adjoining states and the British provinces of Sindh and Punjab , much much before the partition; therefore no border dispute occurred among them. Indus River is the sole life line as it flows down Bahawalpur and Khairpur , thereby population is thin, and only area astride the river is fertile, on the east thus is a great waste of land , sand, stone, void of water and known as Cholistan east of Bahawalpur and as Thar , east of Khairpur and Sindh . It was in Thar that a company of Sindh Border Police were deployed.

Sindh Border Police were having a strength of a battalion {600 men} which were mainly recruited from the Thar frontier region, ‘detachment of border police were posted along the borders, primarily to guard the local grazers against the cattle lifters from across the Rann or to stop smuggling activities across the border’.<sup>30</sup> The main posts were Rahim Ki Bazar,Jatrai,Wangee jo Tur and Bartala, where as border posts were established at Vingi, Pandi and Jatrai, , also outposts were established on the ancient and well defined border routes in the Rann. Due to economic measures the overall strength of the Sindh Border Police was reduced in 1953<sup>31</sup>.

West Pakistan Border Police.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1954 the provinces of Pakistan were combined and a new political set up was established as One Unit, the main aim was to counter the numerical and political power of East Pakistan which was a single province where as in Pakistan there were apart from provinces of Punjab, Sindh, North Western frontier Province, Baluchistan Agency, there were also states like Bahawalpur, Khairpur, Swat, Kalat and Chitral. The West Pakistan Border Police as such was an amalgamation of old Punjab border Police, Bahawalpur border police, Khairpur border police and Sindh Rifles. Headquarters was at Lahore. Its role remained the same as in past, to keep an eye on the eastern border of Pakistan. This created an administrative dilemma, to control a post at Rann from Lahore with outdated insufficient means of communication was a nightmare.

<sup>30</sup> Brigadier Saeed Ahmad *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann of Kutch 1965* {Rawalpindi, Army Book Club,1975},p-10.

<sup>31</sup> Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed *History of Indo-Pak War -1965* {Rawalpindi,service Book Club,2006},pp,1-17.

The minor border disputes with India continued at selective places along the international border, mainly in Kasur-Dipalpur area where in 1955 a company of border police under DSP Muhammad Zarand Inspector Syed Ali Badshah valiantly engaged the Indians at Galteri over several days ;both officers were awarded with Quaid Azam police medal. Similarly in Hussainiwala protective bund in 1956 similar incident took place when Indian border police tried to assert and expand their area; they partially succeeded . Border or more precisely the Radcliffe Line was not precisely demarcated on the ground, it was being observed in broad term in the border villages, interpretation of the Radcliff Award from village to village.

### West Pakistan Rangers -1959

Pakistan underwent a drastic transition when the army took over the reins of the country in a bloodless coup on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1958., General later Field Marshall Ayub Khan became the head of the state.

From 1956, efforts were underway in order to manage the border areas in a more professional manner thus on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1959, through an act, the West Pakistan Rangers were raised solely for '*protection of and maintenance of order in the border areas*' with the responsibilities to protect persons and property in the border towns, to apprehend any person unlawfully entering or leaving Pakistan, prevent smuggling, collect intelligence in the border areas, establish village defences in border areas,, to coordinate between police and other agencies to prevent smuggling, and to assist the police whenever required for maintenance of law and order.<sup>32</sup> One of the key difference from the charter of Border Police and Rangers was, where as border police was a provincial affair the rangers were constituted as a federal force, also Rangers were being vested with the powers granted under the Custom Act, which the Border Police was not enjoying. Rangers were exclusively meant for Punjab and Sindh province only, it was only when they are placed under the operational control of army that they can be employed in other parts of country as well. Ranger is a word almost alien to the military and civil culture and history of sub-continent, it is American by culture where as Pakistan had inherited the British military organisation and culture thus rangers emerges as the very first organisation which was not raised on the British pattern rather on American way of life.

In the East Pakistan situation was drastically different, being a single unit all through the political history and being as one after 1947. Bengal had the border military police known as Frontier Guards, later in 1920 they were reorganised as Eastern Frontier Rifles and same very units were renamed as East Pakistan Rifles. They were also dedicated to the task of keeping an eye on the border, they during the independence

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<sup>32</sup> *West Pakistan Rangers Ordinance 1959* and also *A Manual on the powers of the West Pakistan Rangers, 1961*.

days carried out the same task for which home Guards were arsed in west and now the raising of West Pakistan Rangers was a step to have the similar force on the western flank.

Rangers rather than having the inspector generals as in vogue in the frontier Corps had the appointments designated as director general, deputy director general , commandants and so on. Federation kept the right of posting the director general, his deputies, commandants and wing commanders , for all other ranks and appointments the sole authority was the director general, recruitment was open for all citizens of Pakistan. Instead of being govern by the military law the force was to be operated under the Police Act of 1861; Thus in Rangers a combination of army and police ranks were adopted .

Brigadier Saeed Ud Din Khan was appointed as the first Director General of the West Pakistan Rangers, it had three corps namely Suttlej Rangers, which was the Punjab Border Police and hence its area of responsibility starts from the Meellu Post {near Chammb in Azad Kashmir} to Bisoke Post in Kanganpur a frontage of 700 Kilometres. Lieutenant Colonel Naeem uz Zafar was posted as its first commandant of **Suttlej Ranger's** ; its headquarters was in Lahore. Its main posts were at Wagah, Waigal, Sehjra and Ganda Singh Wala. 11 Wing has the distinction of being the very first wing to be raised in January 1959 at Kasur, it was raised in an abandoned cotton spinning mill of Dina Nath. The wings were initially known by the name of the town where they were raised and had the headquarters thus Kasur Wing and Sialkot Wing. The numbering of wings was not in a sequence , in line with standard army raising procedures which are mainly meant to create deception in the enemy.

**Desert Rangers** was the second corps of Rangers, its headquarters at Bahawalpur, it was looking after the same border which was the border of Bahawalpur State in the past, Lieutenant Colonel Raja Ghulam Sarwar was the pioneer commandant. Sadiqia,Khokar Tower,Sawar Wala, Moharsona, Khanwala, Ghaman,Longewala,Sadewala, Achriwala toba, Golari and Kishengarh Fort were its main posts. Bahawalpur was divided into two main circles namely Rahim yar Khan and Bahawalnagar , Yazman Wing was known as Yazman circle and Inspector Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah was his first officer commanding.

**Indus Rangers** was the third corps, it was the changeover of the Sindh Border Police and the former Khairpur State Police duties, It had the longest frontage of 912 Kilometres, its headquarters was at Hyderabad.Narai Tala, Sobhawala Kalron Ka Tala, Mithrai, Haroon ka tala were its main posts.

Brigadier Hisam 'Husky' Effandi , took over the command of rangers in August 1960 and remained in command till the last week of 1964. He is today regarded as one of the foremost polo player of all time, through him and his game the rangers benefitted , the famous Polo match at Lahore during the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip , was an international headline Brigadier Husky captained the Pakistan team.

### Border Ground Rules

Pakistan and India had a very friendly and cordial relationship in the 60s, the old water issue was resolved through the World Bank; thus only Kashmir was the bone of discontentment between two countries and it was practically put on hold, apart from Kashmir the other issue was the Rann of Kutch where both countries agreed in January 1960 to have a Working Boundary. Thus the borders of Pakistan with India had three different status, in the north from Siachen down to Kashmir it was being governed as Cease Fire Line {CFL} it had evolved after the 1948 War and subsequent agreement in Karachi in 1948. In the south , a portion of border, Rann was now a disputed territory and both countries for the time accept it as a working boundary, the agreement was signed on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1960 and it dealt exclusively with this portion of border only. Radcliffe Line was accepted in totality , however minor irritations were present almost daily, some one buffalo has crossed into other country which in Sialkot at Suchet Garh was just a matter of grazing from one field to the other. Both countries very wisely decided to have some rules of the game, as the pillar marking and erection had been completed; resultantly Border Ground Rules were signed on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1961 at New Delhi.

Pakistani delegation was led by Mr S.K.Dehlvi the foreign secretary , other members included Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana the sole corps commander at that time, Brigadier Hisam Effendi the director general of Pakistan Rangers, alongwith surveyor general of Pakistan Mr M.N.Hashmi. Indian side was headed by Shri Y.D.Gundevia, members included Lieutenant General Daulat Singh, secretaries and joint secretaries of defence , foreign and commerce ministries, inspector generals of police, irrigation department and survey director' these rules are still in practice.

Under the rules Pakistan took the responsibility of maintain the 'odd' numbered boundary pillars and India to maintain the 'even' numbers. Boundary pillars starts from serial 1 which is north of Lahore and increases in number as they move south, thus Wahga is at BP 102, and further south Ganda Singh Wala is BP 162, Sulemanki is BP 261 and so on; apart from these main pillars , at places like Sulemanki there are subsidiary pillars also, as 261/1, 261/2 ; they are primarily and fundamentally in place due to the curving nature of Radcliffe Line . Both countries can go to any limit and extent , to gain or protect few odd meters of land on either side, thus a constant tussle is going on to take advantage of any situation to ingress forward, there fore these subsidiary pillars. The Rules now specified that in case if the pillar is washed



away , or destroyed or removed and a dispute arises in respect of the same, the local commanders will maintain the status quo, till the dispute is settled.

These rules set the limit of playing arena, 150 yards on either side of the boundary was forbidden , none of the belligerents to have any permanent construction, including towers, pickets; exception was made for the certain existing constructions but with a limit of 12 feet of maximum height, primarily the 1000 yards on both side of the boundary came under these Rules, as nothing higher than 30 feet was permitted within this crease.

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Both countries also agreed to allow freedom of action to each other right upto Zero Line, but with certain precautions, for instance, the maximum strength of patrol not to exceed more than a section strength and that too without any light machine guns, further, it was binding to inform the other about the activity taking place along the boundary line. In a sporting manner both opponents agreed to give benefit of doubt to the persons who inadvertently cross over the boundary, they would be handed back , and in case any member of rangers or Indian police commits the same , he will be treated in manner and returned with all weapons and firearms. In Punjab on both sides of the Radcliffe Line , cattle lifting is the main criminal activity and cattle lifter gangs were operating across the line as well, to cater for such eventuality, both countries agreed to ‘whenever any cattle is alleged to have been lifted across the border, a report will be lodged with the opposite border post commander’<sup>33</sup>

Both countries agreed to inspect the entire boundary bi-annually in March –April and October-November, they also agreed not to interfere with the bona fide government agencies working in the 150 yards of border. Rules allowed and encouraged the both border forces to maintain close liaison with their respective opposite post commanders<sup>34</sup>, have frequent border meetings, where required to have joint investigation of any complaint. The manner of initiating the communication between rival forces will be through the flag; that is for posts well within ear shot or eye sight. For far off posts, the party will be of seven men, allowed to carry their personal weapons and on reaching within 300 yards of the opposite post will wave the flag, establish a temporary base and send forward two men unarmed with a flag to make necessary contact. Flag colours are different for each country thus Pakistan waves Blue and Indians wave Orange colour flag , having a pole length of seven feet with a size of four-three feet; these measurements differ for patrols and pickets, a patrol ;s pole length is three feet and flag dimension are also bit small.

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<sup>33</sup> Border Ground Rules, Section 14.

<sup>34</sup> Under the Rule 21, Wing Commanders are required to have one monthly meeting and among the director generals as required.

Rules puts refrain on speculative firing by both sides and encourages the establishment of communication through telephone among the local commanders, lastly both countries being fully aware of the menace which is mostly caused by the media, agreed ‘press on both sides should be persuaded to exercise restraint and not to publish exaggerated reports or material’.

These rules were devised at the height of goodwill among these two rival nations, in early sixties cricket teams from both countries were playing regularly in each other’s stadiums, people were encouraged to visit them and were issued temporary permit for the duration of the test series. Movies were also screened, rather people from Lahore would visit Delhi on regular basis just to watch these movies. Later the relationship hit bottom low between 1965-1973 when two wars were fought and only after Simla agreement, the heat started lowering. In all these years these border ground rules have provided both countries at times the only regular contact among its officials. They have developed their own ethics and culture. Both countries exchange sweets on each others national days through these rules, have monthly meeting among the wing commanders in which apart from the official matters, cricket is also discussed.

#### Cholistan Dacoits 1953-1963

Cholistan is a desert frontier that encompasses Bahawalpur, Rajasthan and Bikaner states, after 1947, when the states have acceded to respective dominions of Pakistan and India, the dacoits made use of this administrative set up knowing fully well that now state police cannot apprehend them, thus a gang of dacoits led by Kishen Singh and Jigmal Singh alias Madhu Singh<sup>35</sup> both hailing from Indian Rajasthan kept the border police of both countries on a run for a decade. Their history and story highlights the working pattern of the early border police and how they worked and more importantly the importance of having the border police in the first instance.

Deputy superintendent Abdul Haq joined the Bahawalpur Border Police in 1950 and was posted at lakhowali post in October 1951 when one evening the two men from the village came to post and informed him that they have picked the news about a likely dacoit raid in the area; this was how the news and intelligence was gathered in the early days by the post commanders. Resultantly Abdul Haq made his troop ready and set off on the camel towards the reported area, he had a brief encounter, in which the police party was able to shot a camel but dacoits made good with escape. Later strong police party from Bahawalpur also made an attempt to apprehend these dacoits but they were able to escape through the cordon at Bijnot Fort; to rub salt on wounds they took along one sepoy alongwith his rifle who were later returned safely,. In a short period of time the Kishen –Madhu gang had become the uncrowned king of Cholistan, local people had a love hate relationship with these dacoits, they harboured them and fed them. The Madhu Singh gang had kidnapped a sub inspector from Rajasthan also; they simply hanged him from a tree. In 1954, the gang was finally caught however only Moti Singh and Kishen Singh were apprehended but Madhu Singh managed to

<sup>35</sup> *Nigran*, Pakistan Rangers six Monthly magazine, Volume VI, 1984,

escape. It was Madhu Singh who later ran a campaign for the release of his companions , through the local people , in the end Bahawalpur judiciary set them free on bail; the gang simply disappeared never reporting back to any police station as per the bail terms.

Madhu Singh was a tall man of 45 years , with shoulder length hair, he was initially a soldier in the service of, Maharaja of Jodhpur forces; he became an anarchist when the state was made part of Indian republic thus the centuries old traditions all of a sudden became extinct, finally when a low caste person was appointed over him, he in a fit of rage murdered him and became an absconder. He along with other notorious dacoits which included Kishen Singh, Moti Singh and Teja Singh settled down in Bahawalpur state's Cholistan, they would commit a dacoity in India with a firm base in Rohi area. In 1955 Kishen Singh was killed and Madhu Singh became the gang leader , with the passage of time this gang lost its lethality and became a part of local folklore<sup>36</sup>.

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In 1961, three new dacoits emerged on screen, Teja Singh, Ghulab Singh and Panna Singh , they were all young, they after kidnapping the son of a high official in Rajasthan simply disappeared in the Cholistan. Indian government requested Pakistan through the high commissioner and resultantly the two children were recovered from these dacoits through the efforts of Desert Rangers. It created a perception as if the Pakistani government is sponsoring the dacoits ; another gang appeared on the scene, this was a Pakistani gang but based in India , it included Khushi Muhammad Sabu, Lakhi Sabu, Shera raj Wali and Aslam Chak, this gang operated in Bahawalnagar area .

In 1962, the old gang of Madhu Singh and Ghulab Singh got united and they carried some spectacular dacoities in the India, their act of kidnapping the daughter of Thakur Bhor Ji a highly influential and rich Hindu seth of Anupgarh, In December 1962, Indian government asked for Pakistani help in recovering the girl and apprehending the dacoits. Deputy superintendent Sufi Muhammad Sharif of desert rangers was the officer in charge and he made frantic search to hunt and recover the abducted girl; it was revealed that Teja Singh had married the girl and as such refused to give him or her up to the authorities.

In February 1963<sup>37</sup>, a special force was formed under Captain Syed Zakir Hussain of Sutlej Rangers {later major general} , force trained hard for two weeks , two L-19 aircraft of army aviation were also acquired for this operation, new vehicles were also given , operation itself was code named as 'Sand Storm' and kicked off on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1963. Apart from the special force the Bahawalpur Wing under command Major Safdar Jang was placed in Marot Fort area, another force from Bahawalnagar Wing under command Lieutenant Colonel Najam Ud Din Mirza

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<sup>36</sup> *Nigran*, Pakistan Rangers Magazine Volume VII, 1985.

<sup>37</sup> *Nigran*, Pakistan Rangers Magazine, Volume VII, 1986.

also reached Marot, however the dacoits sensing the danger escaped, the abducted inspector of Rajasthan police, Dhan Singh managed to escape in this confusion and was found lying behind a bush.

Army aviation pilot , Captain {brigadier retired}Hamid,<sup>38</sup> narrated ‘ we would fly low over the Cholistan to search and detect the dacoits....at times area was combed on the intelligence reports...but dacoits were too good in their field, once we spotted the party of dacoits but before own rangers could reach the location the dacoits moved forward, they had fantastic camels and master in deception.’. Dacoits reportedly were in Nawan Kot area where an encounter took place but again the dacoits made good their escape , this time towards Bijnot. In an another encounter, dacoits fire damaged the ranger’s vehicle, force had the mortars but its fire was ineffective due to sand.

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DSR Abdul Haq finally managed to locate the the hideout of Jagmal Singh, after getting the intelligence tip, he immediately went after him , covering a distance of 28 miles on camel back in night, In the end, dacoits were encircled and surprisingly the Jagmal Singh gave himself up , abducted girl was recovered but she refused to go back to her father and insisted on living with him. DSR Abdul Haq was awarded Tamgha Shujaat for his valour.

#### Rangers in 1965 & 1971 Wars

1965 is a golden year in the military chronicles of Pakistan, despite outnumbered numerically in the strength , Pakistan’s military took a much numerical superior India head on and by the end of year had captured more territory than the counterpart. More than the mere figures the fact that Pakistan through the valiant sacrifices of its armed forces and full support of civil population, brought home the point that , it cannot be cowed by India just because it is bigger in size.

The very first and the last round in 1965 were fired by the Rangers. Year and the confrontation started with the Rann of Kutch in April, it moved to Kashmir in August where Pakistan fully supported the freedom fighters in Indian held Kashmir, the Operation Gibraltar transitioned into Operation Grand Slam. When Indians realised that they are on the verge of another military defeat<sup>39</sup> they invaded across the international boundary. It was at Wahga that the after of Pakistan was hanging in balance, Pakistan Rangers were the first to detect, retaliate and suffer in this cowardly Indian attack. The war ended on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1965 but the skirmishes kept occurring, it was in south , in December 1965 that Rangers had their finest hour when they captured the Sadewala and Kishengarh forts.

<sup>38</sup> *History of Pakistan Army Aviation 1947-2007*, {Islamabad,Army Press,2008},p-161.

<sup>39</sup> India was thoroughly trashed by the Chinese in 1962.

## Rann Of Kutch-Indus Rangers

Roughly north of parallel 24 degrees east of Karachi, a desolate area of mud, swamp and salt stretches eastward for almost 200 miles into India. For much of the year the great Rann of Kutch (Rann means battlefield in Sanskrit) remains submerged in sea water. In summer it becomes one of the hottest places on earth,. In 1951, Sindh Police and Rangers established a few posts along southern edge of Pakistan side of Rann. In 1953, these posts were abandoned due to cyclone, which were later claimed by the Indians. In 1958, Prime Minister Noon and Nehru discussed these posts and matter was put into cold till 1965.

Pakistan borders in Rann stretches from Arabian sea in the west to Nagar Parkar in east, a distance of 250 miles. Indus Rangers had a battalion strength in the Rann of Kutch , the posts were established at Mara,Kanjar Kot,Koltri,Khadai,Jatrai,Panchi, Vingi and Nagar Parkar, all posts except the last were manned by a platoon strength covering an area of 150 miles , area between Puran Dharo-Nagar Parkar was termed as the most vital. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1965, the very first incident of the year took place when a patrol of Indus Rangers, while patrolling between own posts at Ding sari – Mara , detected the Indian movement and incursion<sup>40</sup>; an Indian patrol was heading towards Indus Rangers post at Kanjar Kot. The post became a matter of pride and Indus rangers refused to bow to the overwhelming Indian military strength, protest notes were lodged and on 25<sup>th</sup> February, the very first prolong firing engagement occurred when India tried to forcibly occupy the Kanjar Kot. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1965, Indus Rangers were placed under the operational control of the army {51 brigade ex 8 Division}.

One company of 18 Punjab and a troop of 83 Mortar Battery were deployed along with rangers in Nagar Parkar and remaining force of the own brigade carried out it its planned attack on the Indian forces around Sardar Post. The attack itself was planned on 6/7<sup>th</sup> April but later on executed on the night 8/9 April. Indus Rangers proved their worth by gathering the much required information about the area and the post. The Pakistan army battalion had not been in the area before, therefore it was the Indus Rangers which guided them around the desert. Initial plan of the brigade fell short of the objective for the sole reason that infantry regiments 18 Punjab, 6 Baluch and 8 FF were not fully acclimatised with desert realities and as such lost direction; later soldiers from Indus Rangers were incorporated in the infantry battalions as guide . The operation had stalled at Sardar Post despite the fact that Indian had suffered casualties ‘ Brigadier Azhar there fore decided to call off the attack and ordered units to withdraw to original positions’<sup>41</sup>

<sup>40</sup> *Indo-Pak Clash in Rann*, p-24.

<sup>41</sup> *Clash in Rann*, p-58. Also see Major General Shoukat Riza *The Pakistan Army ,War 1965*{Rawalpindi, Army Education Press,1984},pp-77-94. Lieutenant general Mahmud Ahmed,*History of Indo-Pak War,1965* {Rawalpindi,Services Book Club,2006},pp,1-17.

Operations ‘ Desert Hawk I and II’ in Rann lasted till end April when own 51 Brigade reinforced with an additional brigade by Major General Tikka Khan the general officer commanding Eight Division; succeeded in achieving the desired objectives. West Pakistan Rangers’ Indus Wing highlighted the usefulness of the knowledge about the ground and people ; Rann was an alien land for all the infantry units and its troops , including the officers had only academic knowledge about the peculiarities of the Thar and desert manoeuvres. Desert warfare is romantic in nature, there are two aspects of it, the armoured formations moving as in Africa during the Second Great War, other perception of desert is that of Lawrence of Arabia; unfortunately none of them was applicable in Thar. Night navigation in desert is an art which is only learnt through the time and experience, Rangers by virtue of years of experience were master in this craft . Camel proved its usefulness in the encounter, so did army aviation’s OH-13s helicopters which were employed for very first time in sub-continent. Page | 29

Cease fire agreement was signed by both countries on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1965. The heightened tension between Pakistan-India cooled down considerably after the cease fire in Rann, Pakistan army remained deployed during the May-June period but in July the General Headquarters allowed units to send soldiers on leave.

Operation Gibraltar; August 1965.

Kashmir<sup>42</sup> is the blood line of Pakistan and more specifically that of Punjab, as all the Punjabi rivers take their birth in the highland of Kashmir. The religious sentiments, the morality of the politics, the realism of statehood; all combine together to have an almost obsession of Kashmir in the heart of Pakistan’s military and political strategy. General Douglas Gracey then Pakistan Army’s chief remarked *‘If Pakistan is not to face another serious refugee problem...if India is not to be allowed to sit on the doorsteps of Pakistan to the rear and on the flank...if the civilian and military morale is not to be affected to an dangerous extent and if subversive political forces are not to be encouraged and let loose within Pakistan itself, it is imperative that the Indian Army is not allowed to advance beyond the general line Uri – Punch – Naushehra’*<sup>43</sup>

*In the United Nations Organisation, the matter was discussed in January 1948, when India complained about Pakistan’s aggression in Kashmir. Sir Zafarullah , Pakistan’s foreign minister speech, one of the longest in the history of UNO was a master piece of oratory and history. UNO, after hearing point of view of both dominions gave the unanimous and immediate decision {Security Council **Resolution 38** of 17<sup>th</sup> January 1948} ‘to take immediately all measures within their power (including public appeals to their people) calculated to improve the*

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<sup>42</sup> Kashmir, in Sanskrit, implies land desiccated from water: “ka” (the water) and shimeera (to desiccate)

<sup>43</sup> Shaukat Riza Major General , *Pakistan Army 1947 – 1949* {Services Book Club, 1989} pp. – 275.

situation and to refrain from making any statements and from doing or causing to be done or permitting any acts which might aggravate the situation'.<sup>44</sup> The debate in Security Council {Security Council **Resolution 39** of 20<sup>th</sup> January 1948} established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) with General McNaughton of Canada as chairman.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 1948, the Security Council adopted its **Resolution 47**. *Having considered* the complaint of the Government of India concerning the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, having heard the representative of India in support of that complaint and the reply and counter complaints of the representative of Pakistan, *Being strongly* of opinion that the early restoration of peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir is essential and that India and Pakistan should do their utmost to bring about cessation of all fighting, *Noting* with satisfaction that both India and Pakistan desire that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite, *Considering* that the continuation of the dispute is likely to endanger international peace and security, *Reaffirms* its resolution 38 (1948) of 17<sup>th</sup> January 1948;

In 1962, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto became Pakistan's youngest ever foreign minister, like Sir Zafarullah , Bhutto was also a graduate of Oxford. Soon Pakistan settled its border dispute{Hunza-Gilgit} with China in a peaceful manner, it was over similar and related border dispute in which China had trashed India in 1962. Mr Bhutto being a Machiavellian<sup>45</sup> favoured a revolutionary style of movement, in which an popular uprising can be ignited in Indian held Kashmir by infiltrating the guerrillas and trained Kashmiris. A committee was set up under ministry of foreign affairs in 1964, headed by Bhutto himself , apart from ministry of information , an officer of lieutenant colonel rank from General Headquarters was also in attendance.

Pakistan Rangers were also inducted as part of training team<sup>46</sup> which was commanded by Special Service Groups officers. Teams of Kashmiris were trained and given necessary training of few weeks . It was on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1965, that Operation Gibraltar , the actual infiltration kicked off, two inspectors of Pakistan Rangers<sup>47</sup> , namely Rizwan and Ishtiaq were also leading the small infiltrators through the gaps of cease fire line<sup>48</sup>.

<sup>44</sup> Security Council Papers, p 119, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1948.

<sup>45</sup> Mr Zulfiqar Bhutto had written a dissertation on Machiavelli during his study at Oxford University.

<sup>46</sup> Major General Shoukat Riza *The Pakistan Army War 1965*, p-104.

<sup>47</sup> Lt Col Adel *SSG Tareekh kay ainay Mein* { SSG Headquarters, Cherat, 2005 }, pp113-145.

<sup>48</sup> The Line that took birth in Kashmir after the Cease Fire was accepted by Pakistan and India on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1949. See Resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan, , S/1100, para 75, 9 November, 1948.

**Operation Grand Slam**, 1-5 September 1965. The hopes pinned with the uprising in Kashmir fell short of expectations, yet conducive enough to launch a military operation, it was a well thought and well planned operations. However all military plans are good enough till the first round is fired and from then onwards it is the 'Fog of War' which dictates, Operation Grand Slam despite this fog was still menacing and threatening enough for Kashmir that it compelled India to launch attack across the International border, thus committing an act of aggression and losing the moral ground in world community. General Headquarters had worked and planned on this very hypothesis of an Indian counter attack as well; it was just a question of when and where. Thus on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1965, Indian attack came as a surprise but not as a shock.

### Birds Eye View of 1965 War

Pakistan Army Dispositions. On the eve of war Pakistan Army was commanded by General Musa Khan, army had a total of eight divisions, in which only one was armoured, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division at Raiwind, the other, 6 Armoured Division at Daska was an adhoc division, organisationally, it had only one corps {1 Corps commanded by Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana}, infantry division included, 7 Division at Jallalpur, 15 Division at Sialkot, 11 Division at Kasur, 10 Division at Lahore, 12 Division at Murree and 18 Division in Sind. Indians on the other hand had three corps {I, XI, XV} having a total of 12 infantry and mountain divisions.

In the **first phase**, 6-8 September, the pitched battle was fought on the gates of Lahore, in the **second phase** 8-11 September, Pakistan launched its offensive in Kasur sector aiming towards the Amritsar, as a counter, in the **third phase**, Indians launched the main attack, 11-16 September, towards the Sialkot sector. 1965 War ended on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Pakistan was holding a sizeable chunk of Indian territory, in the southern desert Pakistan Army along with Rangers had Kishengarh Fort, Tanot, Longanewala, Ghutara and area right down to Shahgarh. In the line of posts from Islamgarh to Ghultara being held by own Rangers, there was one post Sadhewala, being held by Indians. Movement of troops from Longanewala to Tanot and Kishengarh thus required long detours. That Indian post was getting reinforcement from Ramgarh. Thus an operation was launched in winter in the desert.

### Rangers.

West Pakistan Rangers were being commanded by Brigadier Khuda Dad and spread over a frontage of 1400 kilometres, from Rann Of Kutch in the south to Head Marala in the north. It had three Corps, each being commanded by a lieutenant colonel, each corps had two-four wings which were being commanded either by a major or a captain. Wing is almost identical in organisation to a standard infantry battalion, thus



having four companies and each company having three platoons which in turn had three sections of ten men each. Numerically a wing had more manpower but it drastically lacked in firepower, it had no anti-tank weapons, as a yard stick, only the obsolete weapons considered redundant by army were the main armoury of Rangers. They lacked communication equipment, vehicles, clothing, and logistics to name few. A Ranger post is not like an army post, it was meant only to curb the smuggling and to assist the local police, Rangers were not entitled to free ration or clothing which the army soldiers were having. A Ranger had to cook his own food, wash his own clothes, collect food from the local area, look after the animals on post which include camels and horses, and above all had no medical facilities to report sick. They were and still regarded as the second line of forces, however in reality they were deployed ahead of army units when the war broke out.

Thus Rangers performance in the war has to be seen and appreciated in this background, it goes to the credit of all Rangers that when the 1965 year finally ended they had captured more Indian territory than the regular army regiments. ***143 Rangers embraced martyrdom, there were three decorations of Sitara –i-Jurat and five Tamgha Jurat, eight Sitara Shujaat and twelve Tamgha Shujaat.*** Major casualties occurred at Wahga -43, Rajasthan -43, Kasur-27 and at Burki-11. Sulej Rangers alone lost 103 all ranks in the war.

In Sialkot sector there were two Rangers Wing{ex Sulej Rangers} namely Sialkot Wing and Narowal Wing thus having a total of eight companies, their task was to ‘watching the area north of Chappar including the Phulkian salient.’<sup>49</sup> Sulej Rangers had two more Wings namely Kasur Wing and Wagha Wing . It was the Sulej Rangers which first broke the news of Indian attack. ‘ At 0350 hours, Rangers HQ reported to 114 Brigade , hostile shelling on Ichogal, Wahgah and Gawindi Rangers posts’.<sup>50</sup>

### **First Fire, First Shaheed and First Prisoner of War**

Indian attack had taken everyone by surprise ‘ enemy had achieved a complete surprise on us’ 114 Brigade’s War Diary notes.<sup>51</sup> Thus Rangers were no exception to this , infact on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> September, Sulej Rangers were busy in preparing for the next morning monthly joint meeting, their vehicle just a few hours before the war was heading towards the border loaded with chairs and crockery.<sup>52</sup>

The Indian activity across the Wahga border was first picked up by Sub Inspector Mirza Sheeraz of 10 Wing, at 0200 hours, he noticed the heavy noise of Indian tanks tracks, metal clinging against metal in the mid of night ; it was an extraordinary reverberations; he alerted the guard

<sup>49</sup> *The Pakistan Army War 1965*, p-144.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid*, pp, 194-207.

<sup>51</sup> *Pakistan Army War 1965*, p-196.

<sup>52</sup> *History of Indo-Pak Wars 1965*.p-240.

and took up positions. At 0345 hours the very first Indian shell landed near the post and then all of a sudden it was heavy machine gun fire, along with artillery shells exploding all around. None of the rangers had any such experience in the past, but they knew it is war which has started. Thus the very first round of fire on Indian advancing infantry was fired by the 10 Wing of Pakistan Rangers. Sepoy Adalat was task to bring the grenade boxes to the bunkers; the Indian firing was so intense that , own rangers soldiers had to crawl for moving between the different trenches in own post area; He became the very first shaheed of 1965 War, when a burst of enemy fire pierced through him, while , Adalat was in the process of shifting the grenade box. There were a total of 31 Rangers soldiers {one platoon} and by dawn, 11 of them had embraced shahadat. The remaining platoon manoeuvred to new position and in the process, encountered an Indian machine gun detachment , firing from under a small culvert, next to the railway line; they were taken as the very first Indian prisoners of war.

Major Aleem Ud din was the wing commander at Wahga<sup>53</sup> , Deputy Superintendent Rangers {DSR} Abdul Shakoor was his second in command. Wing headquarters, office area, accommodation, family quarters , all are located in between the BRB canal and the international boundary, in a belt of three odd miles. Major Aleem's aged father was also present as he was visiting his son. Within an hour after the first round of war, the wing was encircled by the Indian. It was a confused state of affairs, with artillery shells falling around, the noise of tanks moving, heavy and light machine guns rattling; soon the Indians entered into the wing area which was an open ground with few odd barracks here and there. Rangers were neither trained nor equipped for such eventuality, they had already performed much more than desired and expected.

Indian army's captain, along with his troops marched into the wing area, where Sub Inspector Taj Mohammad and few soldiers along with the wing commander and his father were standing , trying to make out something from this confused state of affairs. The captain , simply asked the wing commander to surrender, meanwhile his troops were taking position all around. Vehicle mechanic Zulfiqar alias Billu, was also standing close to Major Aleem, he tried to interfere in between the conversation taking place, on which the Indian Captain hurled abuses , instantly Billu opened fire and shot the captain; simultaneously the Indians reacted with an all out fire. It all happened within few seconds, Major Aleem and his father were both dead<sup>54</sup>, Billu was wounded and Indians bayoneted him till he took his last breath . Only Taj Muhammad was able to survive amidst this carnage, although wounded, Sheraz and few soldiers were able to retreat back to the main defences, this was the very first encounter of 1965 War . Later when Indians moved further west , they were halted by the Major Aziz Bhatti{Nishan Haider} on the banks of BRB canal.

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<sup>53</sup> Inspector Taj Muhammad and Sheeraz survived the war and later served in the Rangers. Their experience were published in the *Nigran* an official yearly magazine of Pakistan Rangers, September 2008.

<sup>54</sup> *The Pakistan Army War 1965*, p-194.

Mahsud & Wazir

Major General Salim Ullah Khan<sup>55</sup>, wrote ‘ *It was 7<sup>th</sup> September’s evening, C company of 5 Frontier Force Regiment was deployed on the banks of BRB canal, two soldiers of Suttlej Rangers namely Akbar and Shah Wali were found straggling and were immediately caught, handcuffed and brought to company headquarters. On being satisfied that they are bona fide soldiers of Rangers, they were told to move back to their headquarters but both pleaded to be allowed to fight here as any movement and travelling will diminish their desire to fight the enemy; company commander agree and both were allowed to fight alongside*’.

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Sepoy Shah Wali Mahsud belonged to the Mahsud tribe of South Waziristan, whereas Lance Naik Akbar Khan Wazir hailed from North Waziristan, Mirali. They immediately proved their utility by highlighting the tracks and area in front of the company as both have spent almost years in the same territory; they were taken along in the fighting patrol. ‘*On 8<sup>th</sup> September, the company received the mission to launch an attack on the villages Charwalia in first phase and Kirka village in second phase. Shah Wali and Akbar acted as the guide in the successful attack, Shah Wali captured an Indian soldier as POW; the sole POW. As the war and tide fluctuated, between 9-11 September, the company was cut off from its rear to an extent that there was no fresh food; in such grim situation, these two Pathan Rangers kept their wits and sense of humour. The fighting patrol sent on the same evening in which these two were an integral part now, Shah Wali was able to get hold of two chicken as well while coming back. The reason why I am quoting is that it requires an extraordinary sense of confidence to be able to perform such acts which in normal time looks ordinary but in the heat of battle, he still cared for his adopted comrades even risking the life.*

*On 13<sup>th</sup> September, Indian Air force carried out strafing on the company location and soon artillery shelling started ; Shah Wali rushed to the own light machine gun and helped the gunner in firing, it was here that he was hit with an artillery shell splinter. While being evacuated to the rear he took his last breath , Akbar fought the remaining days of the war with the company . after the termination of war , an officer of 5 FF escorted Akbar to Suttlej rangers with commendation letter from the battalion.*’

### **Sepoy Niaz Badshah Khattak. SJ**

Sepoy Niaz Badshah was also part of Suttlej Rangers wing, deployed on the Kasur sector, on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> September at Jaman Post, post had a strength of two sections {20 soldiers} when the first wave of Indian attack and fire power came, it created a fog of war, in which soon

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<sup>55</sup> Major General Salim Ullah Khan was director general of Pakistan Rangers 1998-2000. See *Nigran*, September 2008.

the post was over run, however Niaz kept holding his fire bay. A ranger Post is bit different from the army post, as rangers were not authorised free ration thus they had to cook and also clean the post, whereas the army posts no matter where they are, are fed through the company or battalion . Thus a Ranger Post is more open and lacks the basic defensive material and infrastructure to withstand the heavy artillery and machine gun fire; same was the state of communication, as this post like so many other posts had only line communication with rear , and this line was soon cut off. Page | 35

Niaz Badshah was born on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1930 in Karak and joined the Bahawalpur Border Police in 1951. As the Indian fire intensified, so did Badshah's retaliation and vigour. He refused to be cowed by the absolute hopeless situation in which he had a chance to survive provided he surrenders himself but he opted the path of warriors. In the end, when all had been over run, his was the sole bunker to offer a resistance. Indian after having failed to dislodge him, threw the grenades which promptly Niaz Badshah threw back, in the end, he embraced martyrdom. He was later praised by the Indians as well for his outstanding courage, his dead body was taken to his native village after the war and buried with full military honour, he was decorated with a Sitara Jurat for his valour, he is the very first *Sitara Jurat* of Pakistan Rangers.

## Rajasthan

India launched Operation Nepal in the south ' *The aim of opening the front in Barmer sector was to keep the Pak forces that had taken part in the Kutch operation tied down there and prevent them from rushing to the help of Pakistanis in the Lahore sector*' .<sup>56</sup>

Inspector Syed Gul Sher Ali<sup>57</sup> joined Sindh Police Rangers in 1950, in September 1965, while he was attending the map reading cadre in 53 Brigade, when on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> September he received orders<sup>58</sup> from his commandant {Colonel Aftab Ahmed Khan, Indus Rangers} to move to Khokra Par. The wing was being commanded by Captain Mushtaq, who had organised a company with three platoons, Inspector Aurangzeb, Inspector, Sub Inspector Hassan Ali and Havildar Gulab Shah were the platoon commanders, Gul Sher was made the commander of Mortar Platoon. Company was task to take up position in front of Munabhao railway stations which is in Indian side of border. Overall the 53 Brigade commanded by Brigadier Azhar was in control of the operations, apart from Rangers, 8 FF and 18 Punjab Regiments were part of the brigade, artillery support was ensured by 31 Field Regiment.

<sup>56</sup> *History of Indo-Pak Wars*, p- 525

<sup>57</sup> Inspector Gul Sher Ali was decorated with Sitara-i-Jurat

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, also see *Nigraan*, 1985, 1986, 1987.

On 11/12 September, fire was brought upon the Indian defences in which own rangers also took part, by morning the railway station was captured by 18 Punjab Regiment. In continuation of the attack, another village Manchilo which is 12 miles north of Munabhao was also attacked, Rangers mortar platoon supported the advance of 8 FF's company commanded by Captain Rasheed. Gul Sher narrates ' I after the initial success at Munabhao was ordered to make a list of all the equipment captured by own forces...later I supported the attack of FF regiment, after reorganisation phase, I noticed an Indian soldier running , I ran after him and soon over powered him, he was in a state of shock , I left him out of pity and took his rifle, took out the bolt and threw the rifle behind a bush and move forward to search the area, after an hour when I came back , I found the Indian soldier dead, probably he had died of sheer fear. We found a large cache of ration from the captured Indian camp which we distributed among the villagers.

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Ceasefire was put in action on the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> September however the action in Rajasthan continued but after the ceasefire the Rangers were made to lead the attack. The target was Shakar Bo post , Havildar Gul Sher along with a section strength reached the Shakar Bo and found it vacant , however enemy was holding the adjoining high sand dunes but they were well within their own area.

Indian Artillery records ' The Pakistan brigade aided by the rangers and other irregulars contained the efforts of 11 Infantry Division'.<sup>59</sup>

Sub Inspector Aurangzeb unfortunately died of heart attack on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1965. As a matter of interest, Havildar Sher Gul had to appear in the map reading examination in the battlefield, examination was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October at Khokra Par, he passed the examination and same evening , inspector ranks were put on his shoulder

### **Desert Force- December 1965**

When 1965 War ended, Pakistan was holding a sizeable chunk of Indian territory, in the southern desert Pakistan Army along with Rangers had Kishengarh Fort, Tanot, Longanewala, Ghutara and area right down to Shahgarh. In the line of posts from Islamgarh to Ghultara being held by own Rangers, there was one post Sadhewala being held by Indians. Movement of troops from Longanewala to Tanot and Kishengarh thus required long detours. That Indian post was getting reinforcement from Ramgarh.

The vast expanse of desert , with 51 brigade in south and 105 Brigade in North , a distance of 400 miles was militarily impossible to keep an eye on every sand dune in between, thus a new force was raised known as Desert Force. It was a combination of the Desert Rangers with

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<sup>59</sup> As quoted in *History of Indo-Pak Wars*, 1965,p-527.

Hurs as integral part. Hurs the same very religious followers of Pir of Pagara against whom the Sindh Police Rifles were raised in 1942, now voluntarily joined the Rangers for the said operation. ‘ Hurs, uninitiated in the art of modern warfare, ...compensated for their lack of military training with natural fighting skills acquired over ages in the desert’.<sup>60</sup>

Rangers Force was commanded by Brigadier Khuda Dad. In the desert the ground movement was difficult and time consuming, therefore aerial reconnaissance proved to be very useful both in planning and execution phase of this operation. From 27<sup>th</sup> November 1965 onwards, Aviation effort was mainly diverted towards reconnaissance of Sadhewala. Officers of the Rangers and infantry battalion which were to take part in the attack were flown. They include Major Tariq Rasul, Brigadier Khuda Dad, Lieutenant Colonel Majid, Lieutenant Colonel Talib and Lieutenant Colonel Toni Mahmood. Desert features present different perspective early morning and changes with passage of day and position of sun. Pilots flew early morning and then late in the afternoon, they also helped Rangers in making a sand model of the Sadhewala Post at their headquarters. D-Day was fixed on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1965.

### **D-Day 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1965**

Brigadier Hamid Chaudhry writes: “A dawn attack was planned, I took off before first light. The flying time from Rahim Yar Khan to Sadhewala via Sandh was about 40 minutes. I was on target 20 minutes before the first light. As planned earlier, I started with an Artillery Shoot as part of pre H-hour bombardment’.<sup>61</sup>

Sadhewala Post was located in a large bowl of sand with high brims. Enemy was sitting on the high ground. Enemy was pinned down by own accurate artillery fire and own troops reached assaulting position. The moment own artillery fire was lifted the Indians were able to open heavy machine gun fire on our assaulting troops. Indians after some time, started withdrawing, The whole post was littered with dead bodies. Indian Post commander, Lieutenant Paraveen Kumar was captured, he had thick eye glasses. When one of our soldier tried to blind fold him, Paraveen Kumar said, “ Just take the glasses off, without them, I am blind.”

Last Letter, DSR Muhhamad Iqbal wrote in 1981 about his experience in 1965 War ‘ I was posted in the headquarters of Desert Rangers, located at Rahim Yar Khan, all day the people of city would flock to our headquarters with gifts of all kind ranging from food items to clothing for the troops on border, it was a feeling which I cannot forget. One evening, we received the news that two vehicles with serious injured soldiers are arriving, soon darkness came upon and as per the routine it was a complete blackout. The two vehicles arrived, in one were the dead bodies of

<sup>60</sup> *History of Indo-Pak Wars 1965*, p-527.

<sup>61</sup> Azam, Cheema, Madni , *History of Pakistan Army Aviation 1947-2007* {Islamabad, Army Press, 2008}, pp,91-92.

shaheed and in other the serious injured soldiers. The procedure was that , all the items from the pockets of the dead were collected and then send with the dead body. I saw in torch light , all the three shaheed were young soldiers not more than twenty four or twenty years of age. In the process of emptying their pocket, I found one letter which was written but never got the time to be posted, letter was sent with the body to his birthplace Attock. I even now remember each and every word of that letter, it was addressed to the mother ‘ ‘ dear mother, you must be thinking that I have forgotten you but it is not the case... we both brothers are fine , we have driven the enemy back, Mother , you remember that village moulvi sahib used to highlight and stressed that the Shaheed never dies and is the most beloved to the God, can you please pray for us to be granted shahadat, please I beg you, you have always accepted all of my pleads, I am sure you will honour my this wish too. I cannot promise that I will write you soon , rather I will meet you sooner than that.’<sup>62</sup>

## 1971 War

Rangers had undergone one major organisational change , the experience of the 1965 War had highlighted the short comings in having such a large frontage with headquarters at Lahore, it was practically impossible to have command, control and above all to understand the problems of the individual and posts. Thus Sulej Rangers was split into two and a new corps Chenab Rangers was raised in 1969 with its headquarters at Sialkot. Area from Post Melu-Ravi Syphon was entrusted to it. Chenab Rangers were raised with two wings, namely Sialkot and Narowal, later had seven companies and former had eight companies; all in all manning manning seventy three posts on a frontage of 400 Kilometres. From Ravi Syphon-Wali Muhammad Bheni at Sulemanki, became the area of responsibility of Sulej Rangers, covering a frontage of 200 miles. Sulej Rangers had three wings namely , Wahga , Kasur and Kanganpur. Wahga Wing was having 31 posts in an area of 62 miles, Kasur wing had an area of 85 miles with 38 posts and Kanganpur Wing had 53 miles of frontage with 25 posts. The class composition of Sulej rangers had been 50% Punjabi and rest as Pathan thus their promotion was also class oriented, however in post 65, the induction of Pathans , more due to economic openings in Frontier itself rather than any thing else.

No major steps were taken to improve the limitations of the force; the most fundamental being, to be treated at par with the army in terms of ration, clothing and weapon. It was unfair to expect the same standards from a Ranger soldier as with an army soldier when both are being

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<sup>62</sup> Deputy Superintendent Rangers Muhammad Iqbal, *Nigran Magazine*, 1981.

paid, trained, fed and looked after in different manner. The War decorated officers of Rangers were not given any preference in promotion thus the very first SJ of Rangers retired as an inspector{Gul Sher Ali}, Tamgha Jurat retired as sub inspector{Ghulam Qasim}.

## East Pakistan

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East Pakistan was separated from West Pakistan by a distance of 1000 miles, it had only 15% of the total area of Pakistan but in terms of population it had an advantage of few percent's. Culturally both wings were diversified, whereas the West Pakistan is Aryan in race, the East Pakistanis are considered as Dravidian in blood line. It was the religion which bonded them together but soon after independence the cultural values overpowered the religious sentiments and both wings developed such extreme political ideas that it was a matter of time before they get on their own paths . 1970 Elections proved to be the final nail in this unhappy marriage, West Pakistan refused to hand over the total political power to Bengalis on one pretext or the other and resultantly a military uprising took birth which was sponsored by India .Low intensity conflict was going on in East Pakistan since March 1971. From 21<sup>st</sup> November 1971 onwards it became a Limited War along the border belt involving air forces of Pakistan and India.

East Pakistan had 4000 kilometers long border with India in the east, west and in the north. Only in the south, apart from Bay of Bengal, a narrow strip joins it with Burma. Vehicular movement was restricted to the roads even in dry season. Dacca was the capital and strategic target for any invader. It was connected with the rest of province through roads, rail and ferries. The three major rivers namely Ganga, Madhumati and Meghna divide the province into four distinct military sectors. There was no rail or road bridge connecting any of the sectors, except Harding Bridge over Ganga and the bridge over Meghna at Ashugang.

After the mutiny of East Bengal Rifles , West Pakistan Rangers sent a one wing from each Corps to east Pakistan Thus Sutlej Rangers despatched one Wing to East Pakistan, it arrived at Dacca in April 1971 under command Major Muhammad Razzaq, later he was replaced by Major Nadir Hussain Mirza, all in all there were 557 all ranks.<sup>63</sup> Chenab rangers also sent a wing to East Pakistan under the command of Major Iqbal Ahmed Khattak The Rangers Wings were employed on the defence and security of airfields, railway stations and other installations. It was not employed as a single entity rather, its companies were placed under command the army units at various places of East Pakistan.

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<sup>63</sup> History of Sutlej Rangers, p-5, restricted document, dated August 2016.



Rangers' main strength is in the knowledge of the area, which a Ranger soldier gains after serving for years in a particular geographical area. Rangers Corps were static in a sense that the wings were never rotated thus each specific wing was a master of his own area knowing each and every thread of the area of responsibility. Thus in 1965 War, this knowledge was a battle winning factor as army units very rarely are deployed so close to the border as Rangers were. In 1971, this advantage was lost as the Rangers soldiers who have spent life in Desert were all of a sudden found themselves in the lush green jungle and riverine territory of Bengal. The contingent of Rangers was inadequately equipped for the new role in East Pakistan, they lacked the shoes, clothing, shelter and other related issues; wing sent from Indus Rangers was the most affected in these terms.

#### December War - 1971

War in the West Pakistan started on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1971, when own airforce attacked forward Indian bases. Unlike 1965, when own forces were taken by surprise, this time around, they had the initiative. Pakistan army launched two main offensives in this war, one was launched in the north towards Chamb and other was launched in the south towards the Jaiselmir; both fell short of objectives. Pakistan Army's Strategy in 1971 according to Lieutenant General Gul Hassan contained two ingredients; 'First, formations other than those in reserve were to launch limited offensives, secondly a major counter offensive was to be launched concurrently in to India.' The first ingredient of launching limited offensive went as per plan; however the master stroke of counter offensive never materialized

Rangers corps and wings were placed under the operational control of army formations and were employed on filling the gaps between the own formations, mostly they were employed for strengthening the defences.

**8 Infantry Division**, captured a small enclave 'Dharm' on the River Ravi during night 4/5<sup>th</sup> December 1971 as part of the 'Offensive-Defensive' operations in Northern Punjab. India reacted by launching corps size attack in Shakargarh area. Pakistan's 8 Armoured Brigade was employed on 13<sup>th</sup> December onwards to stem the Indians tanks moving towards Gujranwala. **11 Infantry Division**, moved across the border on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> December, took the bridge over the River Sutlej and captured Hussainiwala. In retaliation Indians captured Sehjra Enclave, thus creating a stalemate in this sector.

**23 Infantry Division**, under Major General Iftikhar Janjua, fought an intense and high casualty battle in the Chamb area and put Indians on defensive. Lodgment was made on the far bank of Munawar Tavi. Chamb was taken on 8/9<sup>th</sup> December, unfortunately on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1971, General died as a result of burns/injuries sustained in a helicopter crash. Sector became stale.

**18 Infantry Division**, was tasked to venture into the desert and go for Jaisalmer town in Rajasthan. Lack of air cover resulted in disaster for this formation. Story of Pakistan Army records: “Ill fate had nothing to do with the failure of 18 Division’s attack against Ramgarh (45 miles north of Jaisalmer). The Air Chief was in General Headquarters on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> December when he heard that 18 Division was to launch an attack towards Jaisalmer. He asked the Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Gul Hassan, ‘Why the Army was springing the sudden surprise on the PAF, Gul Hassan replied, “Divisional Commander had a good plan and that, he will jump into Ramgarh one day and the next day will be in Jaisalmer. The disaster was nothing to do with terrain; it was entirely to do with lack of air cover by the PAF, which had warned against the very situation that occurred’. Chief of General Staff Gul Hassan wrote in his memoirs: “For the debacle in the desert, I hold myself blameworthy as the Chief of General Staff.”

Rangers wings and companies performed exceptionally well in the war, capture of Gati Post and Village Thakko Chak in Sialkot sector by company commander DSR Qamar alongwith Sub Inspector Nur Zaman on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> December is one such example. In the Narowal sector, Chindianwali Company which was deployed opposite Chana Malah for early warning, here, Havildar Inayat Shah who was the section commander set an example by fighting to the last bullet rather than surrendering to the Indians. In the Jassar sector, one company of Narowal Wing was placed under command 38 Punjab Regiment; company came under heavy enemy attack on 15<sup>th</sup> December, it fought valiantly .

Pakistan Rangers suffered 221 fatal casualties, out of which 72 occurred in East Pakistan{ 47 casualties in Rajshahi sector alone , followed by Kamalpur 9}. In West Pakistan, maximum casualties were suffered in Sulemanki sector where 28 rangers embraced shahadat, followed by Bahawalpur Sector {24 casualties}, Badin {14 casualties} Head Marala {12 casualties}. In terms of casualties rank structure, there were five sub inspectors, two havildars, eleven naiks, twenty seven lance naiks and remaining sepoy.

*Sub Inspector Hanif Shaheed was decorated with Sitara-i-Jurat , Sub Inspector Noor Zaman and Havildar Sher Muhammad were decorated with Tamgha-i-Jurats, both later retired in same ranks.*

### Rangers Uniform

Uniform is a synonym with military, Pakistan Army on independence inherited and kept the same traditions, culture, organisation and uniform as already in vogue. History of uniforms in the sub continent is an interesting and colourful feature of military history. After 1849, when British annexed Punjab and raised the Guides Regiment, then they developed a cloth and colour which was suitable for the geography, role and climate; they in fact created a new colour ‘ khaki’. Similarly when the Frontier Militias were raised in 1900, they had a distinct uniform and

colour, cloth was mainly made from 'Magzi' which is grown in the Waziristan and Kurram; from it the Militia colour originated which is dark in colour but cloth itself is cotton in nature. The police forces before independence were wearing the khaki shorts and shirts alongwith the headgear of turban, for foot wear boots and chappals were introduced. In the Indus Valley, head gear is of paramount importance and man is distinguished by the turban; a person without headgear is never considered as a gentleman in the social system.

Home Guards the mother board of rangers , did not had any specific uniform mainly due to economic reasons thus they were wearing a mixture of used army and police uniforms, traditionally any dress can be termed as uniform if a person is wearing belt and putting on a headgear. The Punjab Border Police and later west Pakistan border Police , were also wearing the uniform of police which was khaki in colour. It was only Bahawalpur State Border Police which was rich in the glamour of uniform.

In 1959 when rangers were raised , the need to have a distinct uniform was felt, after much consideration and deliberation , a combination of army, militia and police was reached, in which the trouser was khaki but shirt was militia colour, chappals of black colour as foot gear and turban as head gear were made as uniform. The beret of black colour was also adopted as working headgear, the Rangers cap badge or the regimental insignia was also approved. The insignia have five rivers , with the Lahore Fort in the centre alongwith a pointed dagger.

In 1960 the famous 'desert hat' was introduced as part of uniform, it was primarily meant for the Desert Rangers and Indus Rangers, hat is made of canvas , khaki in colour and an ideal to ward off the sun rays , yet retaining the glamour and dignity of a military organisation. Over a period of time this peculiar hat has become synonym with the rangers especially the desert rangers, almost just like the Chitrali cap is associated with Chitral and Chitral Scouts.

Troops uniform remained as in past, a shalwar kameez of militia colour and black chappals, with a leather belt, for winter , a khaki sweater. Officers specially the army officers on deputation were also wearing the peak cap with the uniform. Rangers were not authorised a free uniform rather they had to pay for it and on retirement they could keep it with them, these arrangements were almost identical to the Frontier Militia. Combat dress was also on army pattern, a big pack, a small pack, two blankets, steel water bottle, mess tin, mug enamel and mosquito net. The appointment holders and inspectors were authorised to put on Sam Browne leather belt.

### **Farewell to Khaki & Militia**

The Khaki trouser and Militia shirt remained as uniform till 1992<sup>64</sup>, when it was totally changed into a light green shirt and olive green trouser, it was being influenced by the American Rangers pattern, even the sports kit was made green; for winter a half sleeve sweater was introduced. Sadly in the new uniform, the kameez shalwar was totally outcaste although the dress regulation had specified no less than 25 dress items. Desert hat was another item which was replaced with a green hat of similar dimension, another factor which was overlooked in the new uniform was the fibre selection, in the past it had been 100% cotton, whereas this new cloth was a mixture of natural and artificial fibre. It looks a minor issue but when it is experienced in the heat of Cholistan and Thar, then even one degree makes a hell of a difference on body. Socks are never given any consideration, even in army where the troops till 2000 were wearing the khaki woollen socks in summer also for the reason that no cotton socks have ever been introduced in army.

In 1999, minor changes were incorporated in the dress code where by the colour of jersey was changed into light grey and made full sleeves. From 2000 onwards, the uniforms not only in Rangers but in army have been undergoing rapid changes; Rangers as a convention started copying army pattern of uniform. New grey colour fatigue were introduced in 2003, and in 2005 the age old black shoes were replaced by the polishless suede desert shoes. In 2008, in line with army dress policy, Rangers also deleted 'belt' from regular uniform and retaining it only for operational environment. In April 2009, a minor change in dress by the army, thereby in which only the hip pockets and front pockets were removed although the flaps over them were still retained also compelled the Rangers to do so; although it caused considerable expenditures of funds.

In 2016, the present set of uniform has been introduced which is a mixture of cotton and polyester.

Rangers Band have its own distinctive uniform which has remained almost unaffected and untouched in this half a century when every other uniform item has undergone a transition. In sports the standard white has been replaced with colourful track suits and shoes. There are few exceptions in the Rangers dress code, the Wagah Wing is the only wing authorised to have the red badge as a base for cap insignia, furthermore all joint check posts guards wear black colour kameez shalwar with white and silver piping along with golden kulla. It must be noted that, from 1959- 2003, the uniform was on payment, thus a soldier had to pay for his dress items, it was same in Frontier Corps also, however from this year onwards the issue of uniform is now free of cost; only officers have to purchase it for which they are paid a monthly allowance.

Ranks in Rangers creates an enigma for an outsider especially for army officers. In army for last hundred years, the ranks are standardised, a captain puts on three stars, a major has a crown, a lieutenant colonel has a crown and a star. In Rangers the senior

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<sup>64</sup> Rangers Officers Guide, an official publication of Pakistan Rangers Punjab, 2012.

superintendent also puts on crown, so does the inspector with three stars, that is where the confusion starts for an new person, as these stars and crown are traditionally reserved for commissioned officers, in army the junior commissioned officers do put on crown , but with a ribbon. In 2012, rangers also introduced the web ranks on the front of uniform , in line with army regulations.

In 2012, during the command appraisal conference, Cholistan Rangers raised and highlighted the fact that culturally kameez shalwar is an integral part of soldiers life and as such they should be allowed to wear it on Friday; point was agreed upon . There were still certain strings attached to it, officers were allowed to wear it within the office area and any movement outside the office area had to be in the combat dress {fatigue}.

Similar is the dress code for ladies although the 1993 dress code which had two paragraphs just on the style of peak cap had not a single line on ladies dress. Lady doctors have been part of Rangers and as such they were and still wear the standard dress for lady doctors in army which is khaki saree. Lady Rangers were inducted in 2008, in a bid to give the force a modern outlook they also wear the standard fatigue. This seems to be the one of those very deviations which Rangers adopted, as in army the lady officers are not authorised to wear the combat dress. They are also allowed to wear the khaki kameez shalwar on Friday only. In 2013, during a Durbar, one of the Lady Ranger raised the point that, ladies should be allowed to wear a scarf around the head, it was agreed and now, it is the discretion of the lady herself whether to wear the scarf or put on simple cap. Scarf is made of dark green colour, Lady Rangers also have two types of clothing, winter which is dark green and heavy, and summer which is light grey. It was again, one of the Lady Ranger which highlighted the fact and need to have slightly fine cloth for them; it was agreed.

Uniforms are bound to be change and transition with the requirement of the time and operations and Rangers are no exception. The process is still going on, the selection and adoption of proper Field Service Marching Order is under process.

#### Rangers Camel Training School and Breeding Farm- Mojgarh

Rangers at its inception had well over seven hundred miles of desert frontier to guard and camel was the life line before the induction of motor vehicles in rangers. Over a period of time the importance of camel have fluctuated, there is debate over the effectiveness in relation to the cost and maintenance of camels in the force. Time have proven again and again that in reality there is no substitute for this magnificent 'ship of

desert'. Camel can travel at a stretch for forty miles ,is not bound by the tracks, can navigate by himself; thus they remained an integral part of Desert , Indus and Cholistan Rangers . The riders and camels were being trained at the wings level, an initial training was also imparted to newly inducted recruits at the Rangers Academy as part of their training.

In February 1985, during the commandants conference chaired by then Director General Major General Farrakh Khan, Indus rangers gave the point regarding establishing of a camel and goat farm. Main idea was save the money which Rangers have to spend every year on the purchase of new camels<sup>65</sup>. It took a long time but finally on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012, after a series of presentations and in house debates the present school and farm was established at Mojgarh, with three sheds, a Skelton of staff, initially 145 camels were taken on strength, Major General Hilal was the chief guest at the opening ceremony.

Inspector Yousaf was the first officer in charge , at present inspector Shahid is holding the fort; he highlighted the various aspects of camel training. ' Camel for first four and half years remains with his mother nursing on milk, which the mother gives twice a day measuring five odd litres each time. After four and half year the camel is officially taken on strength , is branded and given a number thus authorising the ration. At five years of age a camel is known as 'Dodhni' which means having two teeth, the pregnancy period of a she camel lasts for thirteen months. The initial period of training for a camel is bit tough for the new camel, as parting from the mother and the routine combined; lowers the morale of camel but after few weeks he gets used to it. A she camel gives a baby after reaching the age of seven years, normally she delivers one child at a time, the baby camels are a treat to watch and observe, presently there are over forty such young camels and we are expecting another thirty odd bay camels by the end of this year {2016}. The baby camels, roam around freely but they mostly stay close with mother, at times when all the females are lying around under the shade of a tree these young ones jump over them, the 'aunties' scold them but never bite them. A mother camel will nurse only her own baby and others are turned away. The babies are kept with mothers only, in the school the male and she camels are segregated in every sense, their feeding areas are also different. The male camels have their front two legs loosely tied so they cannot run far away.

In the morning all the camels are taken away for 'charai' or grazing in the desert, the handlers also go with them, usually four to six handlers are good enough for the batch of sixty odd camels, morning grazing lasts for five hours and three hours in the evening, apart from this the official scale ration is also provided at the evening. The ration scale for a camel includes barley pressed at 1.361 kilogram per day along with gram crushed, 1.814 kilogram, salt {0.56 grams per day} Gur {0.454 grams per week} and bitter oil ,3.628 kilogram per year, but the main diet is mixed bhusa which is given 7.257 kilogram per day. Thus the cost of ration per camel is around 1,23,735 rupees annually, the saddlery cost

<sup>65</sup> Pakistan Rangers *Khabarnama*, {News Letter}, March 1985.

alongwith medical care is 40,000 and, therefore the cost of keeping one camel is approximately 1,63,000 rupees. Each camel is authorised one handler, presently there are 128 camels and 46 kids, there are 71 she and 57 he camels, collectively they are known as 'shutar'. The wings which are maintaining the camels include 3,11,13,15,16 and 7 Wings; all deployed in Desert and Cholistan.

Camel training initially includes walk , and it means walking in a straight line which is a daunting task as camels like human have distinct walk pattern, to train the camels in this art, the front legs are tied loosely with a rope and a daily chore of six hours ensures that requisite level is achieved, in the next phase the camel is trained to carry the weight and also walk straight, for this sacks full of sands are put on the camel to familiarise him with weight. The 'pakhra' comes next, pakhra si the saddlery of the camel, it is elaborately decorated with colours of the desert.

Apart from the operational duties of patrolling, camels are now being employed in the Camel Band and also in the Waltz. In the past, during the annual Rangers Week, Horse and Cattle show at Lahore, these camels of Rangers were performing regularly and were the main attraction. Their inclusion in the annual Pakistan day parade at Islamabad is a new entity, and as expected they have stole the show through their brilliance and uniqueness. The camels for band and waltz are trained in a different manner. On an inquiry as how much time it is required for a novice soldier to master the art of camel riding, inspector Shahid, replied ' well, within a month a strong nerve soldier can mount and ride a camel , overall it takes a year to master it. Fundamentally, we pick only those soldiers who are tough and can take the beating of the desert, camel can sense the fear radiating from the human and reacts accordingly. It is an animal which seldom forgets the insult or humiliation, especially if it is hit on the nose or mouth , thus it requires lot of patience and love. I even after such a lengthy interaction with these camels , still scared of one particular camel , because I know he is keeping the enmity in his heart and will settle the score at the appropriate time. Two years ago, our chief ustad{instructor} Yousaf, who was instrumental in setting up this school had to leave the service because of one camel. The camels are also name like humans, male camels have names like Daud, Shoukat, Raja, Cobra, Imran, and females have bit more flamboyant names like Rani, Krishma, Shehzadi and so on. Thus this particular camel name Shoukat alias 'Shooki' had picked up a grudge with Yousaf, the reason was that Yousaf had hit him on the face , one day when Yousaf had gone to the grazing area alongwith camels and other handlers, Shouki at an appropriate moment, hit him with his back kick, the feet of camels have claws, now Yousaf was running at his full speed and Shouki was after him, the other handlers struck the camel with sticks but to no avail; Yousaf was lucky to manage to reach the school premises, we locked him in a room, where as Shouki was mad, he kept on circling the room and after three hours his temper cooled down and we put him back in the paddock. Yousaf had fractured ribs but more importantly, we all knew that sooner or later Shouki will attack him again, in the passing days , Shouki always kept Yousaf with in his sight, no matter where he is but his eyes were fixed on Yousaf; in the end, Yousaf was already reaching the end of the service thus he opted for it , main reason was the enmity with Shouki'.

It comes as no surprise that among 466 non combat casualties which Rangers have suffered in last fifty odd years , there is not a single casualty attributed to snake bite despite the overwhelming number and the terrain however there is one fatal casualty which took place because of camel bite; it happened last year. Winter is the breeding season for camels especially November-December and in this state, the male camels are wild, they often fight among each other, bites and yells. Camels have good memory, thus they know the route to the grazing areas, in case if the area is change then it may take another two weeks for them to register the new area, therefore camels are seldom deviated from the area in which they have been living and working. There are four major types of camels presently in the school, the local breed, the Sindh class which is white in colour, the Baluch class and the black colour camels; all have distinct characteristics. For the administrative reasons the year in desert is classified as summer season having 245 days and remaining days are regarded as winter time. One natural question that arises in the mind of any visitor is , whether snakes bites a camel or not ? answer is affirmative, a snake does bite camel, the reason is accidental in nature. In the morning especially in summer, when camels goes for grazing, same time snakes are also out , looking for the morning dew on the shrubs , thus almost all cases of snake bite occurs on a camel mouth. Other than this , snakes have never bitten a camel in the shed. Milking a she camel is an art, one leg of the camel is tied with her own body and it eases the whole operation. Camel milk is unique as it has no fats, there is no cream and neither a yogurt can be made from it.

For the training of the camel riders, the day starts at dawn, and then continuously they ride and carry out exercises which includes headstand on running camel, the key is to understand the anatomy of the camel and make use of it, camel have large backbones which provides enough cleavage to firmly anchor the rider's body.

**Camel Band** which is a pipe band ,have a strength of 25 camels , out of which 23 are employed at one time, less the band master who rides solo, all other have two riders, one playing the band and other as the Muhar or driver. The band have been trained locally, the man behind this is inspector.....who is a retired army havildar , trained at Army School of Music in drumming. He has trained the other, at times taking help of the army music instructors from the stationed regiments. It is to be noted that rangers does not have the vacancy at the above mentioned institution. In the camel band training the core issue apart from the training of soldiers is that of camel also, for this similar tactics are employed as in vaulting, music is played for hours and hours in front of camel, at times , it has happened that a camel bolted out from the band formation but it is rare. Another phase of training camel in the band involves, 'stepping in line' in which camel walks in tune with the beat of the drum; it also requires patience but in the end, camels also enjoys music and are cheerful and happy to perform.

Mojgarh Fort, is an old, deserted, abandoned structure, with seventy odd mud houses around its walls inhabiting a population of 243 . Historically the fort was part of the ancient line of defence, in which nine such forts were constructed at the edge of desert frontier; the eastern



fringes of the Aryan Civilisation. Structure of fort is a mix blend of mud and solid bricks, there are three main entrances of the fort, inside it is wide enough to house a battalion of troops, remains of old well and the mosque are still visible. Legally the heirs of the fort are having a court battle, they are known as Daudpottas , thus at present it is owned by none. In 1986-87, the very first solar power system was installed but at present the area is without any electricity, it was only on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016, that the people of the village saw the electric bulb when rangers installed the solar power system, it was a great night as people sang for hours. There is a school for children as well, with one male and one female teacher having a strength of twenty five students.

Life is tough for the Rangers, lack of electricity and other basic facilities which in any case are integral aspect of Rangers duty, over and above the care of camels is an art which at times compels the soldiers to forego their leaves also. Now with solar power the things are bound to be better. Water remains the main issue in desert, Rangers have bored a tube well, being run on diesel engine, water is good enough for drinking of camels and humans. Another major step taken by the soldiers at the school is the cultivation, making use of the meagre water resources they have made use of four acres of barren land, growing the vegetables and wheat. The school itself has become an international news , the French television team last year made a documentary on it.

Another major step taken by the Rangers is the renovation and preservation of century old Bahawalpur border police station. It was in ruins but now it is the most aesthetic structure in the desert, its beauty lies in being so natural; it is all mud structure with high roofs, arched verandas, and windows.

### Pakistan Rangers 1972-1995

The post 1971 War saw the emergence of a new Pakistan, the military defeat was and still remains a dark chapter of our history; one can blame politicians and others but the fact remains that the final decisions are made in the battlefield for which only the officers are to be held responsible and none other. An officer is responsible for proper induction, selection, training and employment of the soldiers; to infuse the morale in the soul of his under command, to be a beacon of professionalism and high moral ground. He is to ensure that his under command are well fed and are mentally free to concentrate on the task assigned to them. Rangers were never meant to be employed in the fighting role in which they were during the war; for the reason that their equipment and way of life was not in accordance with the task assigned to them. They at best are the eyes and ears of the army and once the operations have started then they are to be employed in the rear for the defence of such

installations which are vital for national cause, securing line of communications, there by freeing the army units of such tasks and to allow them to concentrate on their primary role of fighting the enemy.

Rangers were unique in a sense that they were the very first organisation to be raised without any historical legacy or traditions which at times are more of a drag on efficiency rather than as a catalyst of proficiency. Had the Rangers been trained at high standards from the inception, and ironically there are no extra expenditures involved in it.

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The very first task immediately after the War was to restore the morale and confidence of the Rangers, the high number of casualties during the war, almost 2000 rangers were prisoners of war in India after surrendering at Dacca along with army . Brigadier Khushi Muhammad took over the command of rangers in the dying phases of the war, he later tried his best in restoring the morale of the force and successes to a great extent in this regard. It was only after the Simla agreement that POWs started repatriating and slowly but gradually life returned to normalcy. On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1972, Federal government took over the control of Rangers from provincial control; West Pakistan Rangers were now to be known as **Pakistan Rangers**.

**Simla Agreement** was signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1973, it not only ensured the repatriation of prisoners of war but also created a new line on map, the **Line of Control** {LOC} thus there were three lines now namely, International borders as agreed under Radcliffe Award of 1947 and Cease Fire Line of 1948 {CFL} which came into being after the ceasefire agreement of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948. Simla and subsequent Delhi Agreement of 28<sup>th</sup> August 1973, reopened the airlink and border travelling among two countries.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1974, as a sign of raising the morale of, as a mark of respect for the sacrifices given by the Pakistan Rangers in the wars, a national standard presentation parade was held at Lahore in which Federal Minister for Interior and States and frontier Region, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan was the chief guest. Ironically the gazette was never published thus Rangers had to wait for a quarter of century before another colour parade was held for the same .

In 1973, the first signs of insurgency appeared in Baluchistan which later engulfed the selected parts of the Baluchistan province, a small contingent of Pakistan Rangers {Indus Rangers} were sent to Quetta , however they did not took any active part in the counter insurgency other than guarding the provincial boundaries of Punjab and Baluchistan.

Pakistan Rangers played a key role in ensuring security and other protocol duties during the Islamic Summit conference in Lahore.

### **Reorganisation of CAF-Rangers**

In 1975, federal government aimed at restructuring the civil armed forces which had come under adverse criticism during our wars with India in 1965 and 1971, directed Ministry of Defence to carry out reorganisation of CAF with a view to prepare them for their war time roles without prejudice to their peace time assignment<sup>66</sup>. Federal government also raised new force known as Federal Security Force {FSF} it was primarily aimed to spare the unnecessary calling of army in aid of civil power. It was a good decision, as army's involvement in minor civil issues of mob control etc. ,often results in untoward incident tarnishing the good image , especially after the debacle of 1971. It was a short lived experience, before it could nourish, the military took over and it was made defunct. Page | 50

Presentation was made to Chief of army staff on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1977, who principally agreed with the recommendations of the committee, in fact General Zia himself as the COAS had drafted these very recommendation. In October 1977, the first draft was presented to secretary interior, however the cost of reorganisation was staggering {rupees 50 crores} thus it was redrafted with inputs from the respective director general and inspector general of frontier corps {IGFC}, which brought the cost down to Rupees 20 crore, the final draft was finally agreed in February 1978 under which the cost was further reduced to only Rupees 5 Crores.

Pakistan Rangers had a total strength of 14,874 all ranks,{ 132 officers,526 junior commissioned ranks and 14216 other ranks}, it was having 313 transport vehicles and 693 wireless sets of all kinds. Among the four corps ,Chenab Rangers with a total strength of 3137 all ranks was organised into two wings, Sutlej Rangers was having a strength of 3328 with three wings, Desert Rangers had four wings with a total of 3217 all ranks, Indus Rangers was having four wings with a strength of 3430 all ranks. Punjab Rangers Headquarters was having 444 all ranks including 23 officers.

Pakistan Rangers had 66 companies being organised into 13 nonstandard wings, they were called as nonstandard wing because rather than having standard four companies in each wing they were having 4-7 companies in each wing. The main point of the reorganisation was to have a standard organisation for all CAF. The Rangers, in the expansion plan had been allocated five additional wings, two such wings were incorporated from the defunct FSF, and by reorganising the nonstandard wings into standard wings, further two wings will be raised, thus bringing the overall strength to 21 Wings.

In the end, the strength of a rifle wing was set as 730 all ranks having 12 vehicles, having four rifle companies and an headquarters company, all companies less headquarters company had 132 all ranks , whereas the HQ Company had 172 all ranks . Each company having three rifle sections having 37 all ranks an additional machine gun platoon. The standard infantry battalion was having 832 all ranks with 43 vehicles.

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<sup>66</sup> Ministry of Interior, Military Liaison section, final report on re-org of CAF,1978.

The rank of command for a corps was raised to Colonel, new aviation section was authorised for the Rangers, mechanical platoons in each wing were raised to the company level, number of clerks were increased, an ordnance branch for rangers was authorised, a veterinary section was also authorised for rangers. On the other hand certain decreases were recommended in decrease of medical section in every wing thus reducing it by seven persons. Last but the least, a mess detachment for wing headquarters was also authorised.

A new Corps was planned for Pakistan rangers to be known as Khairpur Rangers, overall rangers strength in rangers was increased , officers from 132 to 190, JCOs, from existing 460 to 775, Other ranks from 12905 to 16005, , religious teachers which hitherto not authorised to rangers, now 27 such religious teachers were authorised. The financial aspect involved an initial cost of 3,97,83,000 Rupees with a recurring cost of 2,70,41,000 Rupees.<sup>67</sup>

Eighties.

At the dawn of eighties, Rangers had the four corps, there were two deputy director generals, both working under the Director General, one was looking after the Punjab and other for Sindh. Politically, country was back under the martial law from 1977 onwards. However the relationship with India soared back to pre 1965 War level. Indian Cricket team visited Pakistan after a lapse of 15 years, Indian film actors were state guests thus Rangers had an easy working environments; anti-smuggling became the main task of Rangers. The normal routine life of Rangers thus revolved around training and sports events among the corps. New welfare projects were undertaken in which included barracks for the troops, quarters for married personals.

Pakistan Rangers were broadly divided into two main categories, Green Belt and Desert Belt. In Green Belt; Chenab and Sutlej Rangers were included, where as in Desert Belt , the Desert Rangers and Indus Rangers were included. Troops and officers were interposted between these two areas. In reality, the life in Cholistan and Thar was really tough, water was the main issue.

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<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

Austerity was emphasised and enforced, it was in one of the command conference in mid-eighties, that the Desert Rangers raised the point that the present amount {Rupees 500} authorised for catering of official visits needs to be enhanced, thus it was enhanced to Rupees 2000. Rangers central record office was also established in 1986, with an aim to facilitate the retired personals, and also to maintain the records of soldiers rather than unit keeping them. The issue of tenure in the hard areas was another sore point which to some extent was resolved. it was a practice that the soldiers who were serving in the Thar area m, before they were to be posted out to the other wings, a police verification was carried out as per the procedure for all residents of border belt. Thus in many instances the soldier despite being serving in the Rangers was not cleared to serve in another Ranger wing, which was unfair.

Recruitment and selection of persons for Rangers is a delicate affair, it was now decided and later implemented, that advertisement will be published in the leading newspapers for recruitment, further, selection teams will visit and tour all over Pakistan to select suitable and capable persons for service in Rangers. A quota of 20% was reserved for the relatives of Rangers.

Pay, leave and allowances are a sensitive issue, for all uniform personals. In 1981, Rangers leave rules were approved under which instead of being governed by the laws for federal employees , under which the leave is limited<sup>68</sup>, Rangers were now governed by leave rules specific to them. They under this, were authorised two months paid leave in a year, in addition 20 days casual leave was also authorised under new rules. Another important step was the induction of marking system for Rangers to be eligible for Tamgha Khidmat Class I , II & III. Senior Reserve Inspectors which are at par with army subedar majors are eligible for this but since there was no marking system thus they were never considered for the medals.

Certain other allowances were also made authorised for the Rangers which included instructional allowances for all rangers being employed on instructional duties, thus soldiers were authorised Rupees 25 per month and inspectors Rupees 35 per month. Ice allowance was also authorised during travelling, it was one Rupee per day, another related increase was in the ration allowance during travelling on duty; it was increased from Rupees 5.75 to rupees 6.50 per day. However the most important was bringing at par the pay and pension of rangers with army junior commissioned officers. Brigadier Humayun deserves the credit for not only bringing at par but also to ensure after a prolong paper battle with finance ministry to extend this benefit to the retired personals of Rangers dating back to July 1972. Similarly, Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Insurance Act 1969, were made applicable for Rangers also.

### **President Zia Ul Haq visits Pakistan Rangers.**

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<sup>68</sup> 48 days of leave in a year were authorised to federal employees.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1981, President and Chief Martial Law Administrator General Muhammad Zia Ul Haq visited the Pakistan Rangers Headquarters at Lahore, he thus became the very first head of state to officially visit the rangers Headquarters. It showed the importance of Rangers, raised the morale of the force tremendously and initiated new welfare projects for the formation. He arrived at 1100 hours at the headquarters, received by the director general Brigadier Humayun Malik. General Zia was a soldiers general, he would meet every person with such a warmth that the person would simply melt with the gesture. General Zia in his informal talk highlighted his own experience with the Rangers, how , back in 1963, he was helped by a Ranger jawan in Bahawalnagar area, whence General Zia transport had broken down. The subject of Desert area hard allowance and the treatment of Rangers in combined military hospitals {CMH} was put forward to him for consideration.

President General Zia Ul Haq again honoured the Pakistan Rangers on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1987, when Major General Hakim Arshad was the director general, it was in this visit that President laid the foundation stone of present Rangers Headquarters, he also instructed certain changes in the overall design. Apart from this ceremony, President announced the grant to establish a technical training school for the children of Rangers personals. Religious education and its imparting to troops was always a weak point of late President Zia, he gave substantial amount for the imparting of religious teaching for the soldiers deployed on posts. In the same visit, President also approved the design of Shuhada Monument, establishing of a Rangers Housing Society; perhaps the key note was establishing of a boys hostel for the children of those rangers soldiers who are posted on border outposts.

President Zia , again visited Rangers Headquarters , his last such visit, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1988, in which he spent considerable time with the Rangers.

#### Anti Dacoit Operations Sindh

From early eighties onward, dacoits in Sindh virtually paralysed the normal way of life, it was almost an impossible task to travel by road to Karachi from Punjab. Looting of vehicles and kidnapping of people for ransom slowly and gradually became a norm of life. The dacoits activities coupled with the political situation in Sindh specially in interior Sindh reached a frightening level where the writ of state became at stake. Army was first employed in anti dacoit operation in 1982. Dacoits main hiding and operating areas were the river banks and the small islands which erupts in winter and remains submerged during summer in Indus River; this is popularly known as 'Kacha Area'. Sindh province

lacks the classical hideouts for dacoits on the eastern frontier in Thar Parkar area, it is the belt along the River Indus with high wild growth which gives ample hiding spaces to gangs of dacoits.

As one Ranger officer remarked ‘ dacoits in Sindh are not a new entity, they are dacoit by tradition, by culture and by hobby...a good dacoit enjoys a social hierarchy , he is well respected in the local community as well’.<sup>69</sup>

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One incident stands out, Lance Naik Muzzaffar Shah of Rangers in November 1981 , was travelling in train from Bahawalpur to Rohri, as an attendant to another soldier who was being medically board out. Near Sukkur, four armed dacoits entered the train boogie in which Muzaffar was travelling, dacoits as per their procedure started collecting money and other valuables from passengers. At this precise moment, he was asleep and it was only the noise which awoke him, he saw that two dacoits have pointed the gun to his sick companion. Instantly, Muzzaffar without any second thought, simply jumped on to the dacoits from his berth, he after a bit of tussle, snatched the weapon from the dacoits. Other dacoits, opened fire on Muzzaffar, one bullet pierced through his lungs, Muzzaffar also retaliated with fire and shot a dacoit on the spot, wounded the other, and remaining simply jumped out from train. Lance Naik Muzzaffar was awarded with ***Tamgha Basalat*** for his heroic act.

### Mehran Rangers Raising

In October 1987, in a conference held at Karachi headed by prime minister, it was principally decided to raise a new force for the subject menace to be known as Mehran Force, Pakistan Rangers were task to raise the new outfit. In the first phase, 5000 strong force had to be raised by June 1989. By 30<sup>th</sup> October 1988, the force headquarters and one Corps known as Shahbaz Rangers having three rifle wings{40,41,42} were raised. In the second phase, which lasted till 30<sup>th</sup> June 1989, another Corps known as Bhattai Rangers with three rifle wings namely, 50,51,52 were raised. In the third phase, Qasim Rangers were raised. The organisation of the Mehran Rangers was identical to the existing structure. Each Corps had ,four wings, each wing having a strength of 730 all ranks. Within a year of raising, it had killed 30 dacoits, captured 1327, it also took control of 388 different calibres of weapons, 6643 rounds of ammunition, overall it conducted 379 operations.

41 Wing was the very first wing of new force, it was raised at Bahawalpur on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1989. A darbar was held in which Major General Hakeem Arshad addressed the troops and gave the commitment that after two years they will be rotated. Wing departed by train from

<sup>69</sup> Captain Raheel Ashraf, *Nigran, December 1989*.

Bahawalpur under command Major Ibrar with band playing happy tunes. At Rohri the wing was accommodated in the National Highway barracks,. Lieutenant Colonel Tauseef Ahmed was appointed as its first wing commander, its area of responsibility included Sukkur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Ghotki and Ubaro. By mid February the wing was moved into Larkana, and in April it moved to Karachi; however the move to Karachi was through ‘Akhpal bandobast’.<sup>70</sup> The wing arrived in Karachi in civil trucks which were given free diesel.

Indus Rangers had some of the toughest and farthest posts among all posts of Pakistan Rangers, name like VirWah and Dharing are part of Rangers folklore.

In October 1987, the telephone rings at 2200 hours in Rangers wing headquarters where a newly arrived officer{ it was his second day} Major Abdul Wahid picks up the phone and duly informed by the local police that , dacoits have kidnaped two persons from Sachal Pur , have left a note asking for half a million rupees in ransom; they were last seen going to the Kacha, we are following them but requires your assistance and reinforcement. Major Wahid counselled with the old hands of the wing . The rangers section strength undercommand Major Wahid alongwith Inspector Saeed Alam an old hand arrived at the spot, where a police party was also present, for next next hours , they with the help of Khojis picked up the Khurra of the dacoits; it seems as if at any moment they are going to have an encounter with them. Soon the Khojis started loosing the Khurras , by this time they had reached the banks of the River Indus; it was 0330 hours. At dawn, the hunt again continued and finally it was established that dacoits have crossed the river. The boatmen ‘malah’ admitted that they have helped them in crossing the river for the reason that failure to do so results in the kidnaping of their wives.

Rangers party, police and Khoji started picking up the tarcks after crossing the river tributary, an army aviation helicopter was also in air , searching for the dacoits. Rangers finally reached the main banks of Indus, in the meantime the helicopter had gone back due to low fuel. Search party was resilient to find the dacoits but now they had nothing to cross the river. In the meantime ,information had been passed to the army units across the river too. By mid day, it was revealed that dacoits had an encounter with the army unit, dacoits killed both of their hostages , one dacoit Saleh Junejo was also killed in the encounter.

In May 1989, an operation was carried out against the dacoits in Mir Pur Mathelo. {It is being chronicled here as a sample}. The usual pattern of the operations was that either they were spontaneous, i.e.; as any incident has happened, or based upon intelligence report. DSR Aftab in collaboration with the police made a plan, in which a raid was planned on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1989 to capture notorious dacoits namely Khadim, Laloo, Siddique, Ali Hassan.

<sup>70</sup> Akhpal bandobast is an army slang, which means, carry on the task with own resources, no help to be expected from higher headquarters.



Aftab along with the police party reached the suspected hideout of the dacoits, he carried out a quick appreciation of the ground and directed the police van to be placed on the likely getaway route of the dacoits. Furthermore, in order to maintain secrecy, he opted the most unlikely route. Dacoits are also a master of their field and seldom gives up easily. They usually had an outer cordon in which they would have their sentry, who not only warn the main group but for the time engages the raiding party as well. Dacoits opened fire on rangers and police party and fled through the fields in their Suzuki car. DSR Aftab, kept his nerves, kept the morale of his force high and led by an example, he pursued the dacoits and despite the fire kept on advancing. It was sheer his character that he was able to encircle them and forced them to surrender. One dacoit was killed in the encounter and four other were arrested; arms and ammunition captured included three rocket launchers, two AK-47 assault rifles, and three hand grenades.

Special Services Group and Army Aviation helicopters were constantly employed in the hunt of dacoits.

### **Black Day**

An act of an individual can make or break the image of any force especially a newly raised force, employed in aid of civil power. Major Arshad was the wing commander of the Pakistan Rangers in the Sindh, eliminating the menace of the dacoits and making people believe in the writ of the state. Rangers' actions as chronicled above very rightly bring forward the gradual buildup of confidence in the federation. Newspapers highlighted every day the killing or arrest of the dacoits, at times in editorials asking army and Rangers to do more, thus killing of nine dacoits near Hyderabad became a national headline and as 'victory has many fathers' thus army and rangers both glowed in this aura; but it all of a sudden became a nightmare when doubts were raised regarding the authenticity of the incident itself.

Army and Rangers very basic foundation stone is the integrity; thus a court of inquiry was conducted and questions raised proved to be correct. Major Arshad, succumbed to his lust and lowered the dignity of forces not only in the eyes of the public but even among themselves. The people killed were not dacoits, rather to settle a family feud, Arshad faked an encounter knowing fully well that in the present circumstances no eye brow would be raised, no matter how high are the casualties. The issue was his inlaws were having with their tenants in their land and as such, Arshad in order to please his inlaws and become the star in his doctor wife's eyes, lowered himself to the very depth of indignity which was unprecedented in the country's military history.

A court martial was held and he was given a death penalty, his heirs initiated a legal battle, which they were very much capable, through money, to prolong the case till eternity. Case prolonged and started fading out from public memory when the ladies of the dead victims, immolated themselves publicly. After a brief delay, he was hanged and public confidence again build up in the Rangers.

This act had far deep impact on the rangers, commanders were sacked and finally it was accepted that , affairs of Sindh cannot be effectively monitored from Rangers headquarters at Lahore. Thus on ....1995, **Sindh Rangers** became an independent entity and Pakistan Rangers became as it is today ‘Pakistan Rangers Punjab’ or simply as **Punjab Rangers**